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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

18 OACSFOR

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (M) (22 Aug 69)

FOR OT-UT-692281

16 September 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 1st Infantry Division (U) - Ending 30 April 1969 (U)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 96345

AVDB-T (MHD)

15 May 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 1st Infantry Division for Period Ending
30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

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1. (C) Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities.

a. (C) Introduction.

(1) The 1st Infantry Division, during the reporting period, continued in the performance of its general missions:

(a) Destruction of main force VC/NVA forces, equipment, and base camps.

(b) In conjunction with GVN forces, the identification and destruction of local force VC and infrastructure in order to provide a secure environment to further GVN control over the area and people.

(c) Overwatch of the TAOI.

(d) Assistance in the training and improvement of GVN forces.

(e) Area preparation (construction and destruction).

(2) Within the overall framework of these general missions, the principal missions for the reporting period have been:

(a) Reinforce An Loc/Quan Loi/Song Be area.

(b) Target against base areas 359, 360, and 356.

(c) Detect and destroy enemy forces approaching Saigon through the Iron Triangle-Phu Cong-Di An-Tan Uyen Zone.

(d) With a minimum of one battalion, protect the Capital Military District from the east and northeast (infiltration and rocket attack).

(e) Within the TAOI, coordinate the security of US installations, reinforce Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces security of key bridges and installations, respond to VC/NVA attacks against allied installations, camps, and headquarters.

(f) Support the Government of Vietnam Revolutionary Development Program by conducting military operations within the TAOI in coordination with and support of the 5th ARVN Division, Capital Military District, and respective provinces.

(g) Maintain security of major lines of communications within the TAOI (Hwy 13-Rt Iron; Hwy 314,16-Rt Lead; Hwy 7B,2A, 1A-Rt Zinc; Saigon By-Pass).

(3) The operational trends of the period, based on command guidance, experience factors, and the changing tactical environment, remain the same as in the previous reporting period:

(a) Night operations.

(b) Maintaining contact.

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- (c) Small unit operations.
- (d) "Pole-on" Tactics.
- (e) Thorough search.
- (f) B-52 exploitation.
- b. (C) Personnel and administration.

(1) Personnel:

(a) Strength	OFF	WO	EM	AGG
Authorized 1 Feb 69	1076	181	15808	17065
Authorized 30 Apr 69	1075	191	15993	17259
Assigned 1 Feb 69	1144	166	16381	17691
Assigned 30 Apr 69	1093	182	16080	17355

(b) Gains, qualifications, and status:

1 Enlisted:

a Replacements received: 4514

b Outstanding requisitions: Sr Enl Grades: 05C4P (1), 11B4O (10), 11C4O (5), 11F4O (2), 11G5O (5), 13B4O (2), 13E4O (1), 91B4O (2), 94B4O (10), L6 and below: (Feb 177, Mar 459, Apr 293) due to shortfall total: 929.

c Credits: None

d Qualifications: None

2 Officer:

a Replacements received: 244

b Outstanding requisitions: 0

c Credits: Ample replacements were received for losses, however, a shortage of Captains still exists in Combat Arms, particularly Infantry.

d Qualifications and status: Lieutenant fill being received for requested Captain requirements in Combat Arms.

(c) Losses:

1 Enlisted: There were 4048 losses during the quarter due to reassignment within Vietnam, rotations, ETS, and board action.

2 Officers: There were 231 losses during the quarter due to reassignment within Vietnam, rotations, ETS, and board action.

(d) Losses due to casualties were as follows:

1 Feb	OFF	WO	EM	AGG
KIA	4	0	39	43
WIA	14	0	309	323
MIA	0	0	0	0
NBD	0	0	3	3
NBM	0	0	30	30

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	OFF	WO	SM	AGG
<u>2 Mar</u>				
KIA	3	0	67	70
WIA	26	0	328	354
MIA	0	0	0	0
NBD	1	0	7	8
NBM	2	0	48	50
 <u>3 Apr</u>				
KIA	5	1	41	47
WIA	17	3	171	191
MIA	0	0	0	0
NBD	0	2	9	11
NBM	2	0	21	23

(e) Maintenance of morale:

Awards and Decorations:

Medal of Honor	0
Distinguished Service Cross	4
Distinguished Service Medal	0
Legion of Merit	6
Silver Star	86
Distinguished Flying Cross	35
Soldier's Medal	15
Air Medal Valor	16
Air Medal Merit	1750
Bronze Star Valor	275
Bronze Star Merit	1224
Army Commendation Medal Valor	167
Army Commendation Medal Merit	1597
Purple Heart	1104
Certificate of Achievement	0
TOTALS	6279

(2) Discipline, Law and Order:

(a) There were 15 serious incidents and 30 AWOLs reported to the PM during the period and 13 individuals were apprehended.

(b) There were 9 General Courts-Martial tried during the quarter. A total of 156 records of trial for Special Courts-Martial and 13 records of trial for Summary Courts-Martial were received for review.

(3) Graves Registration: During the quarter there were 171 remains processed and evacuated.

(4) Development and Maintenance of Morale:

(a) Chaplain: During the quarter there were 2087 religious services conducted with a total attendance of 50,284.

(b) During the quarter 4,155 out-of-country R&R allocations were utilized.

(5) Civilian Personnel:

(a) As of the end of the quarter the Division employed approximately 600 temporary hire local nationals on a daily basis.

(b) There were 1023 permanent hire local nationals employed at the end of the quarter.

(6) Personnel Management:

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(a) Infusion: In the month of Mar 69 The Division conducted an infusion program to alleviate a DEROS hump in the 1st Med Bn. The Med Bn supplied the field units within the Division with 36 EM who will DEROS in Sep 69 in return for 11 EM with a DEROS after Sep 69. Replacements from the replacement stream were also provided to 1st Med Bn to correct the problem of heavy losses in the month of Sep 69.

(b) Infantry Personnel: To alleviate the command-wide shortage of EM holding a PMOS of 11B/C/H, USAFV has directed a 5 increment levy of EM holding these MOSs as a PMOS from support commands throughout RVN. The 1st Infantry Division to date has received 102 EM in the 1st and 2nd increment. It is anticipated that the 1st Inf Div will receive a total of 250 EM in this levy.

(c) Operations:

(1) General: The 1st Infantry Division concluded its participation in Operation Tean Thang (Complete Victory), Phase II, on 16 Feb 69. Phase II had begun on 31 May 68. Operation Tean Thang, Phase III, began on 17 Feb 69 and continues as of the close of the reporting period. All organic units and those OPCON to the Division are involved. Tactics have consisted of both unilateral and combined reconnaissance-in-force and night ambush operations designed to destroy enemy military forces within the TAOI and to control land areas to include population and resources. Extensive land clearing operations continue in the vicinity of Lai Khe and along the Phuoc Vinh-Phuoc Binh Road. Route security operations continue along Hwy 13. Responsibility for overwatch of ARVN activities and Vietnamese government installations in the Division's adjusted TAOI continues through this reporting period. Pacification missions assigned in conjunction with the Accelerated Pacification Program and its follow-up program, both being GVN efforts toward accelerated improvement of territorial security and elimination of the VC Infrastructure, continue to be of high importance in the period.

(2) Force Disposition: (a) Major adjustments in force disposition occurred on 5 Mar 69 when operational control of the 11th ACR was transferred from 1st Infantry Division to 1st Cav Div (AK) and on 12 Mar 69 with return of the 1st Bde, 1st Inf Div, to the Quan Loi/Song Be area of operation. See 1. C. (5) (d) 2 and 1. C. (5) (e), respectively, for discussion of these adjustments.

(b) The 1st Bde generally provided 1 US battalion and 1 ARVN battalion to Song Be road opening operations in Feb 69 and 1 to 2 infantry battalions to operations in the Trapezoid, also in Feb 69. In Mar and Apr 69 the brigade employed 1 infantry and 1 mechanized battalion in operations in the Quan Loi/An Loc/Song Be area. One mechanized battalion was committed to Song Be road opening operations in mid-April 69.

(c) The 2d Bde generally employed 3 battalions in the southern portion of the TAOI. The battalions supported the pacification program in the form of: (1) population control and rice denial operations in the Di An/Phu Loi area in coordination with ARVN/GVN forces in the area, (2) the hampering of enemy tactics operations in the area, and (3) neutralization of VCI in the area.

(d) The 3d Bde generally employed 3 to 4 battalions in the vicinity of Kho, Ben Cat, An Dien, and Chanh Luu in Feb 69. The brigade conducted offensive operations in these areas to detect and destroy VC/NVA forces and caches, offensive ambush operations to interdict infiltration, combined operations with 1st ARVN Regt, and pacification, rice denial, and VCI elimination operations particularly in An Dien/Chanh Luu. In Mar 69 the brigade employed 1 armored and 1 - 2 infantry battalions in Operation Atlas Wedge in the Michelin Plantation. In early Apr 69 the brigade provided 1 armored and 1 infantry battalion to Operation Atlas Power in the Michelin Plantation and in late Apr 69 4 infantry battalions to Operation Plainsfield Warrior in the Trapezoid. Security along Hwy 13 was provided by an infantry company (-) and a mechanized infantry and an armor platoon.

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(e) The 11th ACR in Feb 69 provided 2 cavalry squadrons and 1 infantry battalion to searching out and destroying enemy troops, base camps, and caches in the Catchers Mitt area; interdicting infiltration routes from the Catchers Mitt and War Zone D; conducting aggressive pacification programs in the Lam Son area; securing and outposting Lateral Hwy 16 and 1A; and conducting VCI neutralization in the Lam Son area. In Mar 69 the 11th ACR provided 2 cavalry squadrons to Operation Atlas Wedge in the Michelin Plantation. In Apr 69 1 cavalry squadron and 1 infantry battalion were employed in the same manner as in Feb 69.

(f) Inclosure 3 provides a detailed description of force disposition by battalion size unit.

(3) Land Clearing Operations:

(a) During the period the 60th LCC and 984th LCC from 62d Engineer Battalion, 20th Engineer Brigade, were in direct support to 1st Inf Div for directed land clearing operations. The following acres and areas were cleared:

1 Phuoc Vinh-Phuoc Binh Road: 267 acres - 60th LCC; 1187 acres - 984th LCC.

2 Lai Khe East: 4464 acres - 984th LCC; 581 acres - 984th LCC.

3 Lai Khe West: 6192 acres - 60th LCC.

During the same period the 1st Engineer Battalion cleared 1726 acres in the Division area.

(b) Phuoc Vinh to Phuoc Binh Road Operation:

1 Road opening operations from Phuoc Vinh to Phuoc Binh continued during this period. Phase I of the operation, land clearing and road repairs, was completed to Dong Xoai on 6 Feb 69. 1st Bde exercised overall control of the operation. Security was provided by 1/28 Inf and 1/7th ARVN Battalion. The road upgrade was performed by the 301st ARVN Engr Bn from 30th ARVN Engr Gp.

2 On 18 Apr 69, units began moving to Dong Xoai to resume the road opening operation. Again 1st Brigade, 1st Inf Div provided command headquarters, and security forces were 1/16th Inf (M)(-) and one troop; 1/4 Cav. 7th ARVN Regt was co-located with 1st Bde to coordinate and control ARVN security forces. On 21 Apr, the 984th LCC began land clearing operations north of Dong Xoai, and the 301st ARVN Engr Bn began upgrading road 1A north of Dong Xoai enroute to Phuoc Binh.

3 At the end of the reporting period, the operation was about 5 KM below Bunard, and the forward positions were preparing to displace from Dong Xoai to Bunard.

(4) Operation Toan Thang, Phase II: (a) At the close of the previous enemy activity within the TAOI was described as light and sporadic. This condition continued through the early part of Feb 69 as enemy activity continued levels with scattered exceptions. This was attributable to force conservation tactics by the enemy as he prepared for future offensive action.

1 One of the few exceptions to the situation described above was the enemy initiated attack against FSPB Oran vic XT628504 on 1 Feb 69. Early in the morning there were indications of the activity which was to come when Recon/1 sighted 100 VC whom they engaged with artillery, light fire teams, and "Spook" aircraft. A later search of this area located 1 VC KIA, 1 82mm mortar bipod, and 1 50 cal MG tripod. At 0010 hours the contact intensified when the FSPB began to receive fire, later estimated to be approximately 150 rounds of mixed 82 and 60mm mortar fire and 100 rounds of RPG and rifle grenade fire. At 0120 an 11th Avn Bn gunship was shot down while supporting the contact. Contacts in and around the position continued sporadically throughout the night with B/1-26 Inf being inserted into the area at 0230 hours to reinforce elements of 1-28 Inf. In addition to the results previously mentioned there were a total of 2 US KIA and 33 US

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WIA while the enemy force, later identified as elements of the 101st NVA Regt, suffered 24 NVA/VC KIA and loss of 2 K50 rifles, 4 AK47s, 1 LMG, and miscellaneous munitions, equipment, and documents.

2 On 3 Feb elements of the 11th ACR OPCON to the 1st Division engaged in a series of productive contacts while operating in the Catchers Mitt. Contact was initiated by the Aero Rifle Platoon at approximately 1230 hours vicinity XT817457 with an unknown size enemy force. As the contact developed it was reinforced, initially by a cavalry troop, and later by C/1-18 Inf. The contact broke at 1815 hours with cumulative results being 1 US KIA, 5 US WIA and 15 VC KIA, 3 VC KBA, 7 VC PWs, 1 M16 rifle, 1 CHICOM LMG, and 2 AK47s captured.

3 Another engagement of note occurred on 8 Feb 69 with the 1-16 Inf while operating in the Iron Triangle. A small contact initiated with 2 VC vicinity XT 712250 in a tunnel complex continued throughout the afternoon culminating in discovery of a regimental size hospital and a large quantity of medical supplies vicinity XT713246. There were 7 US WIA in the engagements while the enemy lost 2 VC KIA, 3 VC PWs, and 6 detainees. A total of 3 AK47s, 1 SKS, 2 9mm pistols, and miscellaneous documents and food supplies were captured.

4 A significant cache was uncovered by 2-18 Inf on 12 Feb 69 while conducting reconnaissance-in-force operations vicinity YS045914. It contained 4 French MAS-36 rifles, 1 US shotgun, 1 CHICOM K50 SMG, 1 Thompson SMG, 1 French MAT 49 SMG, 13 CHICOM type 53 rifles, and 30 German Mausers plus munitions and documents.

5 On 14 Feb 69 elements of and OPCON to the 11th ACR enjoyed a lucrative day while conducting operations in the Catchers Mitt. A mid-morning contact of the Aero Rifle Platoon vicinity XT983322 was developed with reinforcement by elements of the 2-28 Inf and 3-11 Cav and resulted in 10 VC KIA and 2 VC PWs. The 2-28 Inf, OPCON to the 11th ACR, engaged an unknown number of VC in a night ambush action with a subsequent search of the area revealing 4 VC KIA and 2 AK47s, 1 CHICOM carbine, and 1 RPG-7 launcher captured.

6 In another successful ambush action on 17 Feb the 2-28 Inf engaged a small enemy force vicinity YT102348. The contact broke quickly and an area search revealed 2 VC KIA, 3 AK47s, 1 RPG-2 launcher, and munitions and personal equipment.

(b) At the direction of II Field Force, Vietnam, the 1st Inf Div concluded Phase II of Operation Toan Thang effective 162400 Feb 69. The cumulative results of Operation Toan Thang, Phase II, were as follows:

1 US: 394 KIA, 2800 WIA, 2408 WIA (evac), 71 tanks, 81 ACAVs, 2 dusters, 4 lowboys, 21 romo plows, 3 VTRs, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ton trucks, 3 5 ton trucks, 1-105 Howitzer, 2 AVLBs, 34 helicopters, 1 C&V, 7-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ton trucks, 1 Zippo, 1-81mm mortar, 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck, 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck, 1-4.2mm mortar, 1-8" howitzer damaged; 10 helicopters; 2 VTRs, 99 ACAVs, 2 ammo carriers, 5 romo plows, 2-3/4 ton trucks, 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ ton : 22 tanks, 1 (O-1) aircraft, 4-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ton trucks, 3-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ton trailers, 1-155mm ho: destroyed.

2 Enemy: 2685 KIA (BC), 979 KIA (Poss), 262 captured, 50 ralliers, 2 detainees, 1568 individual weapons, 231 crew served weapons, 318399 SA rou. 5236 at mines, 4281 grenades, 1879 apers mines, 2915 RPG rounds, 4304 mort. rounds, 481 tons rice, 11967 bunkers, 1130 lbs explosives, 38.9 tons food st 85 rockets captured/destroyed.

(5) Operation Toan Thang; Phase III: (a) The third phase of this operation commenced effective 170001 Feb 69 with the same organization, mission, and area of operation as the preceding phase.

1 A significant engagement occurred with the 1-28 Inf at FSPB Oran on 21 Feb 69 when a Co D ambush patrol engaged in the early morning hours vicinity XT665495 a small VC force. The 5 minute contact resulted in 7 VC KIA and 5 AK47s, 2-60mm mortar tubes, 1 RPG launcher, and several pounds of munitions captured. Later in the morning Co D engaged and killed another VC in the same location. Activity at

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Oran continued at moderate levels on 22 Feb 69 and presaged events to follow. At 1400 hours vic XT580466 Co B engaged 15 - 20 VC with artillery. The evading enemy unit was engaged by another element of Co B with a result of 4 VC KIA. Contact continued sporadically in the area throughout the afternoon and evening with a total of 5 US WIA and 2 VC KIA with 2 AK47s captured.

(b) The long awaited enemy offensive was initiated on 23 Feb 69 as enemy activity increased sharply along with attacks by fire against US base camps and installations. The 1st Infantry Division Headquarters at Lai Khe was one of the first targets as, between 0235 - 0300 hours on 23 Feb 69, the camp received 10 rounds of 107mm rocket fire and 30 - 40 rounds of 82mm mortar fire resulting in US KIA and 12 US WIA with moderate damage to several buildings and vehicles. Three additional 107mm rocket rounds and 8-82mm mortar rounds were received at 0630 hours with no personnel casualties. NDP Seminole (XS979961) and FSPB Holiday Inn (XT908325) were also hit by indirect fire attacks on this initial morning of enemy offensive.

1 The earlier mentioned activity around FSPB Oran continued on 23 Feb 69 as 4 ambush positions engaged small size enemy forces at various times with total results being 7 VC KIA with 1 AK47 and 1 SKS rifle captured.

2 Also on 23 Feb the 2-18 Inf, while operating vicinity of Thu Duc with C/2-16 Inf and A/1-18 Inf OPCON, achieved very satisfactory results in a series of daylight engagements. At 1100 hours Co D engaged a small force vic XT883026 resulting in 2 VC killed and the capture of 1 AK47 and 1-60mm mortar base plate. At 1400 hours Recon/2-18 Inf located a small cache of 3 M-1 rifles, 1 carbine, and 3 SKS rifles at XT884037. The largest contact of the day occurred approximately the same time as Co A initially received fire from 7 or 8 VC. Lasting approximately 5 hours and reinforced by Co C, this sporadic action vic XS978947 resulted in 3 US WIA, with 16 VC KIA, 8 VC captured, 1 rallier received, and 3 individual weapons captured.

3 Again on 24 Feb 69 at 1350, 1800, and 1945 hours Lai Khe Base Camp received 4 rounds of 107mm rocket, 5-10 rounds of 82mm mortar, and 1 round of 82mm mortar fire respectively. There were 2 US wounded in the attacks.

4 The 2-18 Inf again found itself actively engaged in the Thu Duc area on 25 Feb 69 with a concentration of contacts and sightings occurring vic YS020949. Ambush patrols from the unit, located on tributaries off the Dang Nai River in this area, engaged late the 23 Feb and early 24 Feb 69 a total of 5 sampans resulting in the capture of several weapons and sizeable amounts of explosives. Contacts throughout 24 Feb 69 vic YS008725 with VC forces attempting to move supplies, both by water and along overland routes, resulted in destruction of significant amounts of equipment along with capture of 5 AK47s, 1 RPG launcher, and 1 Browning water-cooled MG.

5 On 25 Feb 69 Lai Khe base camp received 1-107mm rocket and 8-10 rounds of 82mm mortar at 0200 hours resulting in 11 US WIA.

6 Still on 25 Feb 69 the 11th ACR Aero Rifle Platoon, reinforced by a company of F/2-11 Cav vic XT823412 engaged an unknown size enemy force for two hours resulting in 10 VC KIA and 1 VC PW.

7 The 2-18 Inf continued to experience significant contact in its area of operation vicinity of Thu Duc on 26 Feb, the fourth active day in this normally quiet area. In three separate contacts - - Co A at YS006955, Co A at YS027937, and Co D at XS877987 - - there were a total of 11 VC KIA (BC) and 2 VC KIA (Poss), 1 VC PW, and 2 AK47s captured.

8 On 27 Feb 69 the 1-28 Inf again executed one of its many successful ambushes during this period. At 2100 hours a Co D ambush sprung on an estimated enemy square with a search locating 7 VC KIA, 2 individual weapons, and blood trails indicating 4 additional VC KIA (Poss).

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9 Still on 27 Feb the 2-28 Inf with D/1-11 OPCON, uncovered one of the more significant caches of the period in the western Catchers Mtt vic XT867500. It contained 29 AK47s, 48280 rounds AK47 ammunition, 3 CHICOM MGs, 2 IG carriers, 3 IG barrels, 2 RPG launchers, 9 CHICOM carbines, 3 SKS rifles, and sizeable amounts of rocket and mortar ammunition.

10 In the early evening of 27 Feb Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Team #8, under OPCON of the 3d Bde, experienced a grueling and difficult evening when damage to radios resulted in loss of communications throughout the night. The initial VC attack against the team, which caused the damage to the radios, also inflicted 3 US KIA and 3 US WIA on the 7 man team. Aircraft attempted to establish contact with the team throughout the night. At 0800 hours an aircraft on low-level reconnaissance sighted signal mirrors and smoke signals by the badly mauled team. A radio was dropped to the team who requested extraction which was accomplished during the morning under enemy fire. The team was credited with 3 VC KIA.

11 Finally this period of intense activity of late February was concluded with a 28 Feb F/2-11 Cav engagement with 25 ± 30 enemy in a base camp. Light fire teams and tactical air strikes supported, along with reinforcements by H & E/2-11. Final results were 20 VC KIA and 7 VC PWs with 1-75mm RR, 12 AK47s, and munitions and foodstuffs captured. Later search of the general area located an additional 6 individual weapons. There were 4 US wounded in the engagement.

(c) The entire month of March was marked by sizeable increase in enemy activity as the VC and NVA attempted to sustain their Winter-Spring Offensive. This increased level of activity was particularly notable in the number of attacks by fire against base camps and installations. For example, Lai Khe base camp received 11 separate attacks by fire in Mar 69. Attacks by fire also increased significantly at Quan Loi. As might be expected from the increased level of activity, enemy body count credited to the 1st Division leaped to 720, a figure which had not been achieved since the early months of 1968.

(d) The first half of Mar 69 resembled very much the previous month in type of tactics employed by the Division. Tactics consisted of aggressive reconnaissance-in-force and extensive night patrol operations to: (1) deny enemy base area utilization, (2) interdict VC/NVA infiltration south, (3) disrupt enemy logistical operations, and (4) hamper enemy rocket and mortar activity in the Bien Hoa - Saigon Rocket Belt through both ground and air reconnaissance.

1. On 4 Mar 69 the 11th ACR, while operating in the Catchers Mtt, encountered elements of the 96th Arty Regt in a bunker complex vic XT950420. The contact initially established by Aero Rifle Platoon, was reinforced by D/2-28 Inf and L & I/3-11 Cav and lasted through the major part of the day. Cumulative results for all units were 7 US WIA with 23 VC killed and 12 VC captured. In addition, 2-8" mortar tubes were seized.

2. On 5 Mar the 1-11 Cav (-) moved overland from Bien Hoa to the Catcher area to join elements of the 3-11 Cav in their OPCON status with 1st Infantry Division. The 2-11 Cav, in this exchange, moved to an area of operation vic XT.

3. Throughout this period of early Mar the 1-28th Inf, operating in and FSPB Oran, continued to inflict casualties on enemy forces with numerous small bush contacts on an almost daily basis. Characteristic of such days was the Mar 69 when a Co D ambush patrol engaged and killed a 3 man VC group at 0230 vic XT597587 and captured a 9mm pistol and 2 AK47 rifles. On the same evening a Co C patrol ambushed 3 - 5 VC vic XT635429, killing 3 and capturing 1 AK47 rifle.

4. However, on 9 Mar 69 enemy activity around FSPB Oran reflected a solid departure from the previous pattern of movement in small elements. At 0045 hours a Co A ambush sighted and engaged approximately 100 VC vic XT591539 with artillery with undetermined results. Later at 0400 hours the patrol permitted 20 VC moving from north to south to enter the kill zone of the ambush. This extremely successful operation resulted in 17 NVA KIA with 5 AK47s, 2-9mm pistols, 1 SKS rifle, and

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miscellaneous documents and equipment captured. The results were achieved without the loss of a single US soldier and are testimony to the well refined techniques which the battalion had developed in this extended period of operation at FSPB Oran. On 9 Mar 69 the 1-28 Inf commenced disestablishment of FSPB Oran and began establishing FSPB Lorraine vic XT708408.

5 A sizeable cache was uncovered on 9 Mar 69 by elements of 3-11 Cav at XT 882499. It contained 41 RPG rounds, 15-2.75" rockets, 12-107mm rockets, 11 LMGs, 3 AK47 rifles, 1-82mm mortar tube, 24-60mm mortar rounds, plus munitions and small arms ammunition.

6 Another smaller cache was discovered on 11 Mar 69 by 2-16 Inf vic XT873198 containing 4 US carbines, 1 SKS rifle, and 1-82mm mortar tube with sight and bipod

(e) Major adjustments in TAOI boundaries occurred within the 1st Infantry Division in mid-March. During the previous reporting period, the arrival of the 1st Cav Div (AM) in the III CTZ resulted in 1st Infantry Division boundary adjustments (see 1. c. (4). 4. (b) of 1 Nov 68 - 31 Jan 69 ORLL). On 12 Mar 69, the 1st Bde, 1st Inf Div, moved back into Quan Loi/Song Be area to assume the area of operation which it had previously relinquished. AO boundaries reverted to those of the period prior to the Nov 68 arrival of the 1st Cav Div (AM). The move was precipitated by the fact that the 3d Bde, 1st Cav Div (AM), was operating in the Quan Loi/Song Be area with control of the 2-2 Inf, 1st Inf Div (OPCON) and a battalion from its parent division. Meanwhile 6 of the 1st Cav Div (AM) battalions were being controlled by a single brigade headquarters in the Tay Ninh-Dau Tieng-Minh Thanh area. In order to effect a more normal distribution of control headquarters the 3d Bde, 1st Cav Div (AM) assumed responsibilities for a portion of the battalion force previously mentioned and established its command post temporarily at Lai Khe. The 1st Bde, 1st Inf Div, moved from Lai Khe to Quan Loi and assumed control of 2-2 Inf which reverted from OPCON to 1st Cav Div (AM) and 1-2 Inf (-) which reverted from OPCON to BFAC.

1 On 14 Mar 69 one of the more successful single engagements of the month occurred with 1-28 Inf in the Catchers Mitt area. A night ambush patrol from the unit engaged an enemy force on a trail vic YT089373. The force was later identified as an element of the 174th Regt, 5th VC Div. The contact broke quickly as the enemy attempted to evade; however, an ambush site search uncovered 13 VC KIA and 5 AK47 rifles. There were no US casualties.

(f) The later part of March 69 was marked by one of the largest operations mounted by the 1st Infantry Division in several months. Named Operation Atlas Wedge, this was to be a combined 1st Infantry Division, 1st Cav Div (AM), 25th Infantry Division operation commencing 18 Mar 69 and directed against elements of the 7th NVA Division in the area in and around the Michelin Rubber Plantation. Participating Division units were the 3d Bde with 1-4 Cav, 1-28 Inf, and 1-18 Inf with supporting elements including artillery. The OPCON 11th ACR committed elements of the 1-11 Cav, 3-11 Cav along with portions of 2-28 Inf under its OPCON from 1st Inf Div.

1 The starting date of 18 Mar 69, a day earlier than the scheduled operation date of 19 Mar 69, was dictated by contact in the Michelin on 17 Mar 69. The 11th ACR Air Cav Trp, while reconnoitering the operational area on this date sighted and engaged two enemy companies vic XT586541. After permission to engage was secured the target was hit with light fire teams, artillery, and tactical air strikes throughout the morning resulting in 30 VC KIA and 15 VC KIA (Poss).

2 Participating units moved into the operational area on 18 Mar 69 with several heavy engagements occurring almost at once. The first unit in contact was again the 11th ACR Air Cav Trp which, in working throughout the central and northern Michelin, engaged sporadically through the day various large groups of enemy. The final result in body count being 39 VC KIA and 12 VC KIA (Poss). In addition twenty tactical air strikes were flown in support of contacts resulting in 10 VC KIA (Poss). Also on this date M/3-11, while moving through an area vic XT575555, met and engaged an unknown size enemy force. There were 34 NVA KIA and 5 NVA KIA

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in the contact while 2-50 cal MGs, 1 CHICOM LMG, and 1 RPG-2 launcher were captured. The enemy was identified as elements of the 320th Regt, 7th NVA Div. Still on the same day B, C, D/1-11 engaged in a brief but intense 10 minute contact vic XT60051 with friendly forces killing 24 of the enemy at a cost of 4 US WIA. The final act of significance on 18 Mar was a successful ambush engagement by C/1-18 Inf south-west of the Michelin vic XT596470. Enemy forces walked into the killing zone of a platoon from this unit, were engaged, and immediately began counter ambush techniques by assaulting. The abortive effort cost the force 13 VC KIA with 8 AK47s and 1 RPG launcher captured. There was 1 US killed and 7 wounded.

2 The day of 19 Mar 69 saw two significant engagements, both involving elements of the 11th ACR. In the late afternoon B/1-11 Cav again encountered groups of the 320th Regt, 7th NVA Div, vic XT552521 and killed 23 of them while capturing 1 who identified his unit. Also M/3-11 Cav encountered an unknown number enemy vic XT562576 at approximately 1800 hours. Contact was maintained into the early evening hours of darkness with 24 NVA being killed and 1 captured.

4 Activity reached its most intense level on the following day 20 Mar 69 as heavy fighting broke out at approximately noon vic XT595575 and involved the 11th ACR's Aero Rifle Platoon, M & L/3-11 Cav, and A/1-5 Cav OPCON from the 1st Cav Div (AM). Cumulative results for this 6 hour engagement were 74 VC KIA with 48 individual weapons captured. US forces suffered 1 killed and 12 wounded.

5 Activity tapered off in the operational area with only scattered small size contacts until 28 Mar 69. On this date the enemy launched an indirect fire and ground attack against FSPB Doc vic XT613520. The field location was established for supporting artillery and was being secured by 1-4 Cav at the time of the attack. The ground assault by an enemy force estimated to be in excess of 1 company in strength cost 10 VC KIA with 2 RPG launchers captured. Friendly forces suffered 5 killed and 24 wounded from all causes.

6 Finally on 30 Mar 69 the 1-4 Cav, which had moved into the Michelin Plantation after departure of 11th ACR elements, engaged various size enemy forces in bunkers who attempted to evade throughout the day. Contacts centered vic XT560555 with cumulative enemy losses being 79 VC KIA and 2 VC captured. A total of 22 AK47s, 1 CHICOM MG, and 1-60mm mortar complete were captured. Total US casualties, to include those suffered by D/1-11 OPCON to 1-4 Cav, were 12 killed and 19 wounded.

7 Operation Atlas Wedge was terminated on 2 Apr 69 with departure of the 1-4 Cav from the area, although the 1-28 remained in the vicinity of the Michelin at FSPB Picardy at XT659492 for some time after termination. Official results from the operation were: US: 20 KIA, 100 WIA. VC: 421 KIA, 16 PWs, 115 KIA (Poss), captured: 12 RPG launchers, 1 M14 rifle, 1 M1 carbine, 80 AK47s, 21 SKS rifles, 3 heavy MGs, 1-12.7mm AA MG, 1-120mm mortar tube w/tripod, 1-60mm mortar complete, 1-60mm mortar tube, 13,500 lbs of rice, and miscellaneous documents, munitions, and equipment.

(g) Although the 1st Infantry Division's attention did center on Operation Atlas Wedge during the later half of March, there was one engagement of note. 2-18 Inf in performing its Thu Duc installation security missions. On 28 Mar at noon vic XS940948 an estimated 30 VC were encountered and later identified members of the 4th Bn, Thu Duc Regt. The 3 hour fight resulted in 10 VC KIA, 10 VC PWs with 2 CHICOM pistols captured.

(h) The first part of April was characterized by a low level of enemy activity while enemy main force units remained in a standdown posture. COSVN complex assessment of the Winter-Spring offensive and a captured document provided details on their findings. The offensive was reviewed as a political success with only limited military achievements. In the enemy's words one of the major successes was to "encourage the anti-war movement in the U.S." Current intelligence as of 1 May 69 indicates that the main force units are preparing to increase their offensive operations, and this is borne out by several occurrences in late April described below.

1 One of the last significant engagements of the enemy's offensive occurred

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on 4 Apr 69 after the close of Operation Atlas Wedge. Trp L/3-11 Cav while conducting reconnaissance-in-force operations in the Catchers Mitt vic XT918388, engaged an enemy force of sizeable proportions. The mid-afternoon contact was reinforced by Trp K/3-11 Cav and resulted in 25 enemy killed with 4 AK47s, 1 LMG, and 1 ID card printing press among the more noteworthy items captured. There were 2 US KIA.

2 The remaining actions in early April were small scattered contacts resulting from extensive ambushing and the uncovering of small caches. As an example of this type activity, the 10 Apr 69 contact of Trp A/1-11 Cav in the southwestern Catcher Mitt vic XT859329 lasting some 20 minutes resulted in 1 enemy killed, 3 PWs, and the uncovering of a small cache containing 2 AK47s, 2 RPG launchers, 2 US carbines, 1 BAR, 5 SKS rifles, and 1 shot gun.

(1) On 10 April the 1st Infantry Division launched Operation Atlas Power, again in the Michelin Plantation, with major maneuver elements being 1-28 Inf and 1-4 Cav under OPCON of 3d Bde. The enemy had shown a propensity to return to an area of operation immediately upon departure of US forces; this was particularly so in the Michelin during Operation Atlas Wedge in late March. Operation Atlas Power was mounted in an attempt to once again take advantage of that propensity on the part of the enemy. This had been done successfully during the previous Atlas Wedge when forces moved out of the Michelin briefly to allow it to refill with enemy forces.

1 The operation commenced with the 1-28 Inf occupying blocking positions northeast of the Michelin in an attempt to intercept enemy movement as 1-4 Cav, with Co B/2-34 Armor under its operational control, conducted reconnaissance-in-force in the area. The 1-28 Inf operated in the area with a CIDG company from the Minh Thanh Special Forces Detachment. This tactic continued until 12 Apr 69 when 1-28 Inf established FSPB G-fsa vic XT660579 from which both major maneuver elements operated for the remainder of the exercise along with Btry D/1-5 Arty.

2 The most significant engagement of the operation occurred on 11 Apr 69 as Co B/2-34 Arm, while operating vic XT582537, encountered and engaged an enemy force entrenched in bunkers. A three hour engagement supported by light fire teams, artillery, and tactical air strikes resulted in 11 enemy killed and the capture of 2 RPG launchers, 1 AK47, and 1 CHICOM rifle. US forces lost 1 killed and 1 wounded.

3 Operation Atlas Power terminated on 15 Apr 69 with cumulative results as follows. There were a total of 1 US KIA and 9 US WIA. Enemy losses were 30 KIA with 14 individual weapons, 3 crew served weapons, and 1100 lbs of rice captured.

(j) Simultaneous with this operation was a major shift in task organization in the 1st Infantry Division on 12 Apr 69. The 11th ACR transferred to the operational control of the 1st Cav Div (AM) effective 120800 Apr 69. TF McEnery was designated, including 3/11 Cav and 2-28 Inf (-), and assumed responsibility for the 11th ACR area of operation in the Catchers Mitt (AO Mustang).

(k) Another event of note was the departure of the 1st Infantry Division Commanding General, MG Orwin C. Talbott, on leave 15 Apr 69. BG Albert H. ... the Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver, assumed temporary command of the Division and remains in that position as of the close of this report.

(1) Only three days had lapsed from the conclusion of Operation Atlas when the 1st Infantry Division launched its third multi-battalion operation reporting period. Named Plainsfield Warrior, the operation was directed against VC/NVA main forces and elements of RSG3 and SR-1 reported to be located in the Trapezoid. The operation opened on 18 Apr when four battalions, the 1-28 Inf, 2-26 Inf, 2-16 Inf, and 1-4 Cav, launched air and ground assaults into areas in and around the Trapezoid.

1 Although meeting with only moderate success in terms of enemy killed, the operation was successful in that the presence of the force did deny the enemy the use of this traditional area of operation for the period. The event of greatest significance was the seal of Binh Chua village vic XT555359 southwest of the Michelin by the 2-16 Inf, 1-26 Inf, and the equivalent of 1 ARVN Bn. The seal broke on 25 Apr and resulted in the elimination of 25 VC through capture or killed in action.

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2 The second event was the first convoy ambush on Hwy 13 in the 1st Infantry Division TAOI since prior to the 1968 TLT offensive. At 1100 hours on 28 April 69 at XT763748 northeast of Minh Thanh, the northbound convoy was engaged by an unknown size enemy force. The thirty minute contact was reinforced by the 2nd Sect/2-2 Inf and a Plat/B/2-2 Inf and supported by artillery, light fire teams, and tactical air strikes. After the contact broke Co A/2-2 Inf and Co C/2-28 Inf were inserted into blocking positions to the west of the highway in an attempt to intercept the evading forces. There were 3 US KIA and 11 US WIA in the ambush. All of the killed and 6 of the wounded were members of the 1st Inf Div. There were 4 POL tankers, 1-5 ton truck, 1 APC, and 1 armored car damaged by enemy fire. In addition 1 helicopter was destroyed and 1 helicopter heavily damaged as they flew in support of the engagement. Known enemy losses were 11 NVA KIA, 1 NVA PW, 1 AK47, and 1 RPG launcher captured. The enemy force was identified as an element of the 209th Regt, 7th NVA Div.

(n) The total results for Operation Toan Thang, Phase III, which began on 17 Feb 69, for the 1st Infantry Division assigned and OPCON units as of the close of the reporting period are :

1 US: 105 KIA, 770 WIA, 685 WIA (evac), 27 ACAV/APCs, 7 generators, 2-2 1/2 ton tankers, 2 Zippos, 34 helicopters, 19 romo plows, 20 tanks, 11-2 1/2 ton trucks, 3-3/4 ton trucks, 3-1/2 ton trailers, 1 cold storage unit, 1-M109 (155sp), 1 VLB damaged; 1 Zippo, 6 tanks, 1-5 ton truck, 1-3/4 ton truck, 19 ACAV/APCs, 6 romo plows, 1 duster, 1 helicopter destroyed.

2 Enemy: 1177 KIA (BC), 196 KIA (Poss), 108 captured, 20 ralliers, 1002 detainees, 522 indiv weapons, 83 crew served weapons, 149364 SA rounds, 80 AT mines, 13791 apers mines, 727 grenades, 576 RPG rounds, 227 mortar rounds, 3100 bunkers, 27.5 tons of rice, 60 rockets, 547 lbs of explosives captured/destroyed.

(o) During the reporting period, 106-B52 strikes were employed in conjunction with general operations. Combined operations Red Lightning I and II with the 25th Div in Mar 69 in the Trapezoid area highlighted the period. The concept of this type of operation was to plan multiple B-52 strikes on confirmed hard intelligence targets; integrate tactical air, CBU, CS, and artillery fire support to channelize VC/NVA forces into B-52 kill zones; perform low level bomb damage assessment missions and selective ground follow-ups simultaneously in separate AOs. The follow up operations were designed to exploit the effects of the combined fires. Successful in destroying larger enemy base and staging areas, Red Lightning I and II were felt to be instrumental in disrupting the effective initiation of the enemy offensive.

(6) Accelerated Pacification Campaign: (a) The date of 17 Feb 69 marked the successful conclusion of the 1968 Accelerated Pacification Campaign (APC) wherein a total of 63 hamlets targeted for pacification were brought under effective GVN control. II FFORCEV again provided pacification guidance for the 1st quart 1969. One of the documents included as guidance was a retransmission of a message sent to all Corps Commanders from COMUSMACV establishing pacification as the primary concern of US forces throughout Vietnam.

(b) In late Feb 69 the Big Red One published a Letter of Instruction (LTI) providing necessary guidance to organic and OPCON units. The pacification campaign as stated in this LTI, directed that "pacification in calendar year 1969 will be considered an extension of the Accelerated Pacification Campaign. Tactics, procedures, and methods applied in the APC will continue. 1st Infantry Division thus provide necessary assistance to the GVN in order to achieve a "C" security rating, rating according to Hamlet Evaluation System (HES) criteria, in all hamlets within the Division TAOI. Regression is to be prevented in the 63 hamlets upgraded in the APC in 1968."

(c) Tasks assigned to 1st Division units to be performed in and in the vicinity of target hamlets were similar to those in the 1968 pacification campaign, to be performed in close coordination and cooperation with province and district officials and US advisors, assist in upgrading and preserving the security of all targeted hamlets; provide building materials and other supplies as needed to GVN forces after ascertaining non availability in supply channels; conduct resource control operations.

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establish a system whereby target hamlets can effect immediate notification to US sponsor units of VC molestation; provide a ready reaction force (RRF) for target hamlets; maintain continuous liaison with District Intelligence and Operations Coordination Centers (DIOCC) and Province Intelligence and Operations Coordination Centers (PIOCC) in the TAOI to identify, target, and eliminate the VC Infrastructure (VCI); conduct vigorous PSYOP and Civic Action programs; support the training of Popular Self Defense Forces (PSDF); support village and hamlet elections by providing security to the voting population; and, establish troop information program to explain the purpose and techniques of pacification to newly arrived personnel in the Division.

(d) Division forces in support of pacification were reduced to 11 battalion equivalents after the loss of a battalion equivalent to the 1st Cavalry Division. Due to expansion in the area of operations of the 1st Inf Div, responsibility for pacification support was assumed in two additional provinces, Binh Long and Phuoc Long. Responsibility was retained for districts within Bien Hoa, Gia Dinh, and Binh Duong Provinces.

(e) The total number of hamlets targeted for pacification in 1969 as recommended by the Province Chiefs, and approved by the Central Pacification and Development Council in Saigon, totalled 109. After adding those hamlets already upgraded in the 1968 APC, the 1st Division was responsible for a grand total of 172 hamlets within the TAOI. By the end of April, only 38 of the targeted hamlets remained in a contested or VC controlled category. Following is the list of target hamlets, with security ratings as of 31 March 1969, in the 1st Infantry Division TAOI.

1st Brigade:

<u>Province</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Village</u>	<u>Hamlet</u>	<u>Scty Category</u>	<u>Coordinates</u>
Binh Long	An Loc	Minh Duc	Duc Vinh 3	E	XT755804
			Duc Tien	D	XT720817
			Duc Thanh	D	XT720820
			Duc Thinh	D	XT722826
	Tan Phuoc		Phuoc Thanh	C	XT790827
			Van Hien	E	XT807848
	An My		Soc Be	D	XT759914
	Tan Loi		Soc Gon	D	XT781882
			Soc Trao	D	XT817893
	An Ninh		Lich Loc	D	XT805867
			Soc Trao	E	XT804873
	An Phu		Soc Du	E	XT721900
	Thanh Binh		Binh Phu	E	XT713847
	Chon Thanh	Minh Hoa	Hoa My	D	XT610682
Phuoc Long	Bo Duc	Phuoc Luc	Phuoc Thien 1	D	XU990305
			Phuoc Thien 2	D	XU985296
			Chau Minh 3	C	XU963256
Phuoc Binh	Song Giang		Phuoc Binh 4	C	YU133060

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Province	District	Village	Hamlet	Sety Category	Coordinates
			Lorg Dien	D	YU122085
			Thuan Kien 4	C	YU155115
			An Luong	C	YU146115
			Hieu Thong A	C	YU124036
			Hieu Thong B	C	YU122025
			Hieu Thong C	C	YU128025
			Son Thanh	C	YU163075
		Phuoc Qua	Phuoc Vinh	D	YU152049
			Phuoc Son	D	YU166043
			Phuoc Qua A	D	YU185035
			Phuoc Qua B	D	YU185035
			Phuoc Loc	D	YU200047
			Bu Tho	Abandoned	YU193105
Binh Duong	Lai Thieu	An Son	An Phu	C	XT825080
		An Thanh	Thanh Hoa A	C	XT852103
			Thanh Hoa B	C	XT855104
			Thanh Hoa C	C	XT847100
			Thanh Binh	C	XT851112
			Thanh Phu	C	XT833103
			Thanh Qui	C	XT839084
			Thanh Loi	C	XT843102
			Thanh Loc	C	XT830105
			Hoa Lan	C	XT865115
		Vinh Phu	Ap Dong	B	XT875017
		Phu Long	Long Hung	C	XT865035
		Tan Thoi	Dong Nhi	C	XT871060
			Dong Ba	C	XT875047
			Ap Cho	B	XT863055
			Ap Truong	C	XT867051
			Dong Tu	B	XT868063
		Hung Vinh	Hung Tho	C	XT850094
		Thuan Giao	Binh Thuan	C	XT874124

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Province	District	Village	Hamlet	Sety Category	Coordinates
		Binh Nhan	Binh Phuoc	C	XT870072
			Binh Hoa	C	XT857085
			Binh Luc	C	XT855065
			Binh Thuan	C	XT850077
			Ap Thi	C	XT888075
			Ap Nhut	C	XT878068
	Chau Thanh	Phu Cuong	Ap Tu	D	XT823109
		Binh Hoa	Hoa My	C	XT805180
			Tuong Hoa	C	XT800197
		Tan Dinh	Gau Dinh	D	XT782235
		Hoa Loi	Phu Hoa	VC	XT816237
			An Hoa	D	XT823267
		Vinh Truong	Ap Nhi	C	XT865172
			Ap Ba	C	XT872174
		Phu Hoa	Phu Thuan	B	XT835155
			Phu Van	C	XT838121
	Di An	An Binh	An Binh	B	XT910059
			Dong Tan	C	XT932052
			Dong An 1	C	XT916053
			Dong An 2	C	XT886046
			Binh Duong	C	XT928033
		Dong Hoa	Ap Dong	C	XT948054
			Ap Tay	C	XT945054
			Tan Hoa 1	C	XT955042
			Tan Hoa 2	C	XT957041
			Tan Hoa 3	C	XT953043
			Tan Hoa 4	B	XT949038
		Binh An	Binh An	C	XT966059
			Hoi Hoa	C	XT964053
			Binh Thang	C	XT982051
			Ngai Thang	C	XT006048
		Tan Dong Hiep	Tan Dong Hiep	C	XT937073

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			Tan Dong Hiep 2	C	XT937069
			Tan Long	C	XT933078
			Dong Hanh	C	XT935078
			Dong Tac	C	XT944063
			Chieu Lieu	C	XT928082
	Tan Hanh		Tan Han 1	C	XT952115
			Tan Han 2	C	XT958108
			Tan Han 3	C	XT948105
			Tan Han 4	C	XT944105
	Tan Hiep		Tan Hiep 1	C	XT926096
			Tan Hiep 2	C	XT923101
	Binh Tri		Binh Phu	C	XT936095
			Binh Tri 1	C	XT968104
			Binh Tri 2	C	XT940090
			Binh Tri 3	C	XT935087
	Hoa Han		Dong Hai	B	XT980099
			An Hoa	C	XT978095
			Cau Hong	C	XT977082
			Chu Thoi	C	XT970068
			Tan An	C	XT957064
	Tan Uyen	My Quoi	My Quoi	C	XT977197
		Binh Chanh	Binh Chanh	C	XT940192
			Khanh Van	C	XT915190
		Phuoc Thanh	Phuoc Thanh	C	XT935157
	Tan Ba		Tan Ba 1	C	XT935137
			Tan Ba 2	C	XT945131
		Thanh Hoi	Thanh Hoi	C	XT942140
	Thu Duc	Long Binh	Ben Do	C	XT016015
			Long Bui	D	YT013006
			Phuoc Thien	D	YS021995
			Thai Binh	C	YT009039
	Thang Nhon Phu		Tan Nhon	D	XT977001

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			Phong Phu	C	XS959984
			Cho Nho	C	XS955992
		Thanh My Loi	Chua Ong	D	XS936918
			Cat Lai	C	XS955986
			Binh Loi	C	XS924983
	Binh Trung		Ap Dong	C	XS943926
			Ap Trung	D	XS935925
			Ap Tay B	C	XS924924
	Linh Xuan Thon		Xuan Hiep 1	D	XT937028
	Binh Trung		My Hoa	C	XS953929
			Tan Lap	C	XS949925
	Linh Xuan Thon		Xuan Hiep 2	C	XT932028
			Dong Ban Dau	D	XT944026
			Linh Trung	C	XT938007
			Tu Duc	C	XS932994
	Tam Binh		Binh Chiou	D	XT890034
			Go Dun	C	XT899021
			Binh Phu	C	XT910010
			Tam Chau	C	XT911011
			Tam Phuc	C	XT907006
			Tam Hai	C	XT912017
	Hiep Binh		Dieu Ga	D	XT886016
			Binh Phuoc 1	C	XT882012
			Binh Phuoc 2	C	XT888002
			Binh Chanh	C	XS902986
			Binh Trieu	C	XS879971
	Linh Dong		Binh Quoi	C	XS910985
			Linh Dong	C	XS924995
	An Phu		An Phu	C	XS919933
			Thao Dien	C	XS894953
	Phuoc Long		Binh Thai 1	C	XS944970

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Province	District	Village	Hamlet	Scty Category	Coordinates
			Truong Tho	C	XS925979
			Tay Hoa	C	XS935959
		Long Tan My	Long Tan My	C	XS995987
			Long Hoa	C	YS006993
			Lo Lu	C	XS993973
			My Thanh	C	XS967997
		Phu Huu	Ong Nhieu	C	XS983943
3d Brigade, Binh Duong	Ben Cat	Lai Hung	Ben Cui	D	XT746343
		Chanh Phu Hoa	Chanh Luu	C	XT828322
		An Dien	Kien Dien	C	XT732323
		Long Nguyen	Long Cau	VC	XT732335
		Thoi Hoa	Thoi Hoa	D	XT777278
		My Phuoc	Ap Cho	C	XT740330
			Xom Xoi	C	XT755320
			My Thanh	C	XT759307
	Chau Thanh	Hoa Loi	An Loi	VC	XT822299
	Phu Giao	Phuoc Hoa	Phuoc Hoa 1	C	XT924443
			Phuoc Hoa 2	C	XT917425
		Binh My	Binh My	C	XT908335
			Binh Co	B	XT911300
		Tanh Binh	Tanh Binh	C	XT866363
	Chau Thanh	Phu Chanh	Chanh Long	C	XT860230
			Phu Tho	C	XT855235
			Phu Trung	C	XT857245
			Xom Bung	C	XT860245
Bien Hoa	(Tan Uyen)	Uyen Hung	Tan Hung	C	XT968232
			Binh Hung	C	XT965225

d. (U) Training.

(1) Replacement Training:

(a) The Division Training Command started classes at Di An on 15 Feb 69 with the first group of replacements to attend the Division consolidated school.

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(b) The updated objectives of replacement training in the new school are:

1 To provide an initial briefing and orientation to all Captains and below, except for Sergeants Major who receive a special program similar to the one for field grade officers.

2 To accomplish all individual annual training requirements for personnel of the Division.

3 To provide a four day course of instruction on general aspects of Vietnam and guerrilla warfare for all captains and below, except Sergeants Major, and two additional days of tactics used in the Division for combat arms personnel.

(c) There have been 3672 replacements trained by the Division school during this reporting period.

(2) Mobile Training Teams: (a) This Division employs Mobile Training Teams made up from instructors of the Division Training Command.

(b) The mission and concept were explained during the previous reporting period.

(c) Special teams were formed this quarter to conduct training for all maneuver units of the Division on 81mm mortars, M72LAW, and helicopter load preparation.

(d) The following amounts of training were conducted by MTT during this period:

Month	Hours of Instruction	Man Hours
February	69	1304
March	100	1700
April	90	4800

(3) Kit Carson Scout Training: During the reporting period the Division Training Command established a ten day formal training program for Kit Carson Scouts. The concept of training was to install basic training concepts in the scouts to eliminate disciplinary problems, disease, and loss of equipment which were becoming a matter of concern to the commanders of scouts. Twenty five scouts have completed this course and initial reports coming from Division units are most favorable.

(4) ARVN Training: (a) Infantry Battalion Refresher Training was completed for the 2d Battalion, 9th Regiment, 5th ARVN Division on 5 Feb 69. A revised program of instruction was approved in late Feb 69 which presented 90% tactical training and only 10% technical training. This was based on the needs of the ARVN as suggested by the advisors of the 5th ARVN Division. The 4th Battalion, 9th Regiment, 5th ARVN Division, began training on 10 Mar 69 and completed training on 7 Apr 69. The 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry, 5th ARVN Division, began training on 15 Apr 69 and should complete their concluding evaluation exercise on 19 May 69.

(b) The 1st Infantry Division sent 5 NCOs to the 5th ARVN Division NCO School in early Feb 69 to assist in construction and instruction of their new school. Reports from 5th ARVN advisors are enthusiastic about the success of this program.

(c) In Apr 69 a new program of attaching 5th ARVN Officers and NCOs to US maneuver units was started, and at present twenty five Vietnamese commanders are attached to Division companies for one week training.

(5) TDY Schools: Schools and number of personnel attended are as follows:

SCHOOL	LOCATION	NO OF STUDENTS
Recondo	Nha Trang	10
US	Vung Tau	19
10G Transition	Vung Tau	4
24-64 Transition	Vung Tau	2

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COURSE	LOCATION	NO OF STUDENTS
Signal	Long Binh	23
JLST	Philippines	7
Radar A1/PRR-5 Operator	Long Binh	13
DS/GS Maint	Long Binh	5
PLL	Long Binh	6
Audio Visual	Long Binh	10
New Equipment Training (SLAE)	Vung Tau	15

a. (C) Intelligence.

(1) Enemy Order of Battle:

(a) The total estimated strength of the main enemy force military units operating in the 1st Division Tactical Area of Interest (TAOI) is approximately 8,000 personnel with an additional 2,000 Local Force personnel. This figure represents a combat strength of about 10,000 personnel, with an additional 4,000 personnel providing logistical support. The known rates of infiltration, in retrospect, appear to have been adequate to maintain strength in III CTZ and to increase enemy strength in the 1st Division TAOI. Known infiltration into III CTZ dropped to approximately 6,000 personnel during Feb, Mar, and Apr 69. Exact current figures for infiltration into the 1st Infantry TAOI are not known.

(b) Specific reinforcements available from outside the Division TAOI are from the 9th VC Division and the SR-1 forces. All units within the Division TAOI can be expected to have artillery units in support.

(c) The accepted locations of confirmed enemy units within the Division TAOI and along its periphery are:

UNIT	STRENGTH	COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS	CURRENT PROB LOC
7th NVA DIVISION	6000	FCE	Vic Fishhook
Hq & Spt units	500	N/A	w/Div Hq
K22 Arty Bn	UNK	UNK	UNK
K24 AA Bn	UNK	UNK	UNK
141st NVA Regt	1200	CE	Vic Fishhook
165th NVA Regt	1150	CE	Vic Michelin
209th NVA Regt	1200	CE	Tong Le Chon
SEPARATE REGIMENTS			
Dong Nai Regt	1000	MCE	Binh My Area
Song Bo Bn	400	CE	NW of Phuoc Binh
SR-4 Forces	600	MCE	Vic XS 9594
69TH VC ARTY COMD			
744th Arty Regt	750	CE	Dispersed SR-4 Ba Bien
96th Arty Regt	825	CE	NW of Michelin
K33 Arty Bn	200	CE	XT890555
K34 Arty Bn	225	CE	NW of Lai Khe
K35 Arty Bn	225	CE	Poss vic Michelin
LOCAL FORCE UNITS			
C61 Ben Cat Co	50	CE	XT 6934
C62 Chau Thanh Co	62	MCE	XT 8230
C63 Lai Thieu Co	56	MCE	XT 8108
C64 Dau Tieng Co	124	CE	XT 5250
C65 Phu Quong City Plat	51	MCE	XT 8210
C238 Co	95	CE	XT 1624
D368	200	CE	NE of An Loc
110 Co	40	MCE	YT 3497
111 Co	60	CE	YU 2510
114 Co	100	CE	YU 1614
116 Co	60	CE	XU 9815
117 Co	50	CE	YT 9780

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UNIT	STRENGTH	COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS	CURRENT PROB LOC
K18 Co	30	MCE	YU 4225
K19 Co	70	CE	YU 5510
C300 Dong Nai Co	50	MCE	XT 9021
C301 Phu Giao Co	70	CE	XT 9441
C302 Tan Uyen Plat	70	CE	XT 9427
C303 Co	70	CE	XT 9926
D1 An Plat	40	CE	XT 9008
C55 An Loc Plat	40	CE	XT830970
C45 Chon Thanh Plat	30	CE	XT698680
81st Rear Service	Approx 1800	N/A	Logistical area "A" in Zone D & large portion of SR 5, U1 & Ba Bien Prov.
83d Rear Service	Approx 1200	N/A	Logistical area "C" in Nguyen SZ; portions (corn) of Tay Ninh Prov, SR 5, and Saigon area air 1.
85th Rear Service	Approx 700	N/A	Logistical area "D" in Long Prov, w/border of Phuoc Long Prov and t. Cambodian Border.

(d) The accepted locations of Confirmed Enemy Units considered available as reinforcements are:

<u>5TH VC DIVISION</u>	3500	MCE	War Zone D
275th VC Regt	1200	MCE	Vic YT 3942
174th Regt	1200	MCE	War Zone D
95A Regt	1200	MCE	Vic YT 1620
<u>9TH VC DIVISION</u>	5000	MCE	SW Tay Ninh City
<u>101ST NVA REGT</u>	1000	MCE	Boi Loi - Trapezoid
<u>271TH VC REGT</u>	800	MCE	SW of Xuan Loc
263th VC REGT w/AKA			
<u>IRON TRIANGLE REGT</u>	500	MCE	Trang Bang/Cu Chi area
<u>LOCAL FORCE UNITS</u>			
1st VC MF Inf Bn	279	CE	Iron Triangle
2d VC LF Inf Bn	236	CE	Iron Triangle
4th Gia Dinh Sapper Bn	230 - 250	CE	Fhu Cong - Saigon border.
Go Mon Plat	125	CE	XT799067
7 VC LF Inf Bn	202	CE	NW of Cu Chi
8 VC "rty Bn	337	CE	Filhol Area
D1 VC LF Sapper Bn(U1)	200	MCE	YT 1422
D2 VC LF Sapper Bn (UL)	125	MCE	YT 1816

(e) Main Force Combat Units Within the 1st Infantry Division TAOI.

1 7th NVA Division: During Feb 69 the 7th NVA Division was located in the area of the Fishhook. The unit did not attempt to move south to Saigon as done in both Tet and May offensives of 1968. Then in mid-March the division's 165th Regt moved into the Michelin Plantation. PWs indicated a mission to the Michelin and at the same time avoid B-52 strikes as it was felt that US would not bomb the plantation. The division probably hoped to use the area as a critical personnel staging area in addition to its use as a haven. Severe losses suffered in Operation Atlas Wedge forced the division from the plantation north to the Fishhook area. The division remained at this location throughout the month of April up until the present time.

a 165 NVA Regiment: Throughout the months of Jan and Feb 69 the 165 Regt remained in the vic of the Fishhook. During the month of Mar the 209th Regt and

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Regt along with the division HQ moved into the Michelin Plantation, but the 165 Regt remained uncommitted in the Fishhook. Information obtained from PWs of the 209th and 141 Regts indicated the 165 Regt would move into the plantation and replace the 141 Regt which had suffered heavy losses during the month of Mar. A series of documents captured from the 23rd to the end of the month of March identified the 165 Regt north of the Michelin Plantation. Identifications continued through early April with a climax being reached around 10 Apr. On 10 Apr C/2-22 Inf killed 9 NVN via XT571513 from the 2d Bn, 165 Regt. In two separate contacts on 10 Apr A-332 from Minh Tanh killed 17 NVA of the 2d Bn, 165 Regt via XT 5853. Rapid contact continued into the next day with B/2-34 Arn killing 11 NVA of the 2d Bn, 165 Regt via XT582537 and A-332 killing 7 later that day in the same area. Contact and identification of the Regt dropped drastically after this time until the end of the month and the Regt was felt to have withdrawn north of the Michelin.

b 141 NVA Regiment: During the first three weeks in Feb the 141 Regt was sporadically identified in the vic of the Michelin Plantation. Then on 25 Feb the Regt was identified by a PW as the unit which attacked FSPB Mahone via XT522418. Results of the contact were 54 KIA. Following this contact the 141 Regt was not again identified until 15 Mar via XT521417 when elements of the 1st and 2nd Bns were identified in a contact. Results of the contact were 21 NVA KIA (BC). One PW of the 2d Bn, 141 Regt stated his unit was located 1 km N of village 13 in the Michelin Plantation. On 17 March a PW captured by B/1-27 Inf identified his unit as the 2d Bn, 141 Regt. Source stated the 141 Regt was near village 13 (XT585521) and had been there for a week. Source further stated his unit would be replaced by V15(165) and would move to Binh Long (P). Source stated the move was necessitated by losses suffered in the attack on FSPB Mahone II, artillery, and B-52 strikes. Contact with the 141 Regt tapered off at this time and the unit withdrew from the Michelin north of the Fishhook. All through Apr the 141 Regt remained there resting, resupplying and retraining.

c 209 NVA Regt: The 209th Regt did not engage in any significant activity during the month of February. The unit continued to avoid contact during the first half of Mar. During the second half of Mar the 209th Regt was identified in a series of engagements in the Michelin Plantation. On 16 Mar via XT 5652, C/1-5 captured a volume of documents and several PWs which identified the 209th Regt. The following day US forces engaged an unknown size enemy unit in N Michelin. The contact resulted in 61 KIA and 5 PWs. PWs stated their unit (C18 Co) and the K7 Bn with a strength of 250 was located with the Regt HQ. The K8 with a strength of 30 and the K9 Bn with a strength of 250 were also in area. PWs captured on 19 Mar via XT 5651 stated the 209th Regt moved from Cambodia to their present location on 8 Mar. PWs stated the 209th had a mission to defend the Michelin and was to stay in the plantation "at all costs." The Regt continued to be contacted for the next few days and then contact with the 209th was almost completely broken. It was at this same time that the Regt withdrew from the Michelin to the vic of Tong Le Cho (XT 6182). The Regt stayed in this area during most of April. The 209th received into Apr mission and on 28 Apr elements of its 2d Bn attacked a 1st Inf Div on Hwy 13 via XT765758, losing 11 KIA, 1 PW. The Regt received ambush training and further MSR interdiction attempts are its likely mission for May.

2 Dong Nai Regiment: During the month of February there was significant contact with the K4 and K2 Bns of the Dong Nai Regiment. A 2 February rallier Haong, from C3/K4 located his unit at XT 8645. He stated that the Bn was having severe food shortage. The Bn had been concentrating its efforts on receiving supplies from Tan Binh, Binh My, Binh Co, and Chanh Luu villages. On 3 Feb the contact at XT818457 in an area of an apparent field hospital. The contact resulted in 18 VC KIA and 7 PWs. Again on 19 Feb a contact at XT848492 resulted in 3 PWs. Interrogations revealed the unit in contact was C3/K4. The PWs stated their mission was to collect rice in the Bau Co area. The K2 Bn remained dispersed in the An Son area. A 29 Jan PW and 9 Feb rallier both stated that its strength was only 100 men, indicating that significant losses had been suffered by K2 in An Son. The same 9 Feb rallier, Nguyen Van Cuong, stated that the present mission of the 2d Bn was to secure the An Son area south to Lai Thieu for the arrival of the 7th Div. He added that the 7th Div will follow the DNR from the An Son area south toward Thu Duc. When they reach Thu Duc, the Dong Nai Regt will secure the area.

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and the 7th Div will attack Saigon. Huynh Van Thanh, Asst Platoon Leader from C1/K3 rallied to Di An National Police on 15 Feb 69. On 25 Jan 69, he and 9 others had infiltrated to Di An District via An Son. Their mission was to help supervise the building of tunnels. The village chief of Tan Dong Hiep (XT923078) was captured on 16 Feb. He thought it would be impossible for the K3 Bn to move to Di An in force because there were no places to hide. 20 and 25 Feb contacts identified the K3 and K4 Bns, DNR. The 20 Feb contact resulted in 8 VC KIA and 1 PW. The PW was identified as To Van Thuan from C1/K4. He located the K4 Bn in the Bo La area vicinity XT884398. The 25 Feb contact identified both the K4 and K3 Bns at XT823428. 9 VC KIA and 1 PW were taken in the contact. The area of contact had apparently been used as a rest area by elements of both the K3 and K4 Bns. The PWs located elements of both Bns in the same general area of contact. They also pointed out that many of their men were ill with malaria. A major contact on 28 Feb by 11th Div elements at XT840430 resulted in 18 KIA and 8 PWs, one of whom was identified as TXO of C5/K4. Activities during the month of Feb indicated that the Dong Nai Regiment was no longer planning to relocate to the An Son-Thu Duc area for full scale offensive operations or to secure a route for the possible movement of the 7th Division. The focal point for future regimental operations appears to be the Chan Luu-Binh My areas. The K4, K3, and probably the K1 will be the main striking force. The K2 Bn which will apparently be left in An Son without substantial reinforcements will probably not initiate any major offensive actions in that area. War was highlighted by the continued reluctance of the DNR to initiate planned offensive operations in SR-5. The Regiment remained out of major contact. On 9 Mar, Huynh Tan Long, Company Commander of C3, K1, was captured at XT768332 by B/1-16 Inf. He said C3/K1 base camp was located at XT810395. Its mission was to ambush Americans and ARVN forces that operate in the area of their base camp. Previous to this date elements of the K1 Bn had been located in the Catchers Mitt. One major contact took place in the An Son area during the reporting period. On 18 Mar 5 PWs were captured in a platoon sized contact at XT832078. Two of the PWs were identified as To Thanh asst PO, K4 Bn, and Nguyen Van Quan, Co of C2, K4, DNR. Interrogations revealed that command elements of the K4 Bn arrived in An Son prior to Tet to arrange for the Bn's move south. The asst PO of K4, To Thanh, said major attacks were to begin on the night of 22 Mar. K1 was to attack Tan Uyen; K2, An Son; K3, Di An; and K4 was to attack in Thu Duc. A 24 Mar rallier, Dang Van Danh, Sqd leader from C2/K4, said that K4 would move to An Son after receiving replacements. The K2 Bn was to move north after being replaced. Contacts were made with the K1 Bn on 24 and 31 Mar. Conflicting information given by PWs taken in these contacts indicate the possibility that K1 Bn may have received as many as 100 replacements during the month of Mar. However, this could not be confirmed. The month of Apr brought another apparent change in Dong Nai Regiment plans. The planned attacks against Tan Uyen, Di An, and Thu Duc did not develop and the expectation that the K2 Bn would be replaced in An Son also lost imminence. Major contacts identified the K1 on 3 and 4 Apr in the vicinity of XT 9040. The contacts resulted in 26 KIA and 1 PW. On 9 Apr 3 PWs who were from the K4 Bn said elements of K4 were dispersed south of Lai Khe, north of Highway #301. C1/K4 had moved south on an unknown mission vicinity of Ong Loc (XT 8532). A 10 Apr PW from the K4 Bn confirmed that the K4 Bn were still in An Son. 5 PWs from the K3 Bn DNR were captured at XT9. One of the PWs, Nguyen Van Bon, Bn XO, stated that K3 was located in the N. area (XT855360). He said their future mission was to attack Di An City. The K3 Bn had moved to Di An District prior to Tet with the mission of clearing the battlefield. They were also to assist local force elements in the area. During the month of Apr the Dong Nai Regt attempted to remain out of contact, trying to reorganize, refit, and re-establish coordination among SR-5 units. The K1 Bn was operating north of Tan Uyen possibly receiving weapons and replacements. The K2 Bn with a strength of approximately 100 men apparently will remain in An Son. The mission of the K2 Bn and the K4 Bn team in An Son is probably to build a base area in preparation for future operations and to aid in re-establishing local strength in the area. The remaining elements of the K3 Bn in Di An District apparently have the same mission. The rest of the K3 Bn remained out of contact in the vicinity northeast of Lai Khe. The K4 Bn is dispersed east of Lai Khe in the vicinity of XT 8540. Current regimental strength is still held at 900 to 1000 men. The regimental mission is to refit and retrain in preparation for the next offensive campaign probably sometime in June.

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2 Thu Duc Regiment: (SR-4 Bns) Earliest identification of a new westward move of the Thu Duc Regt came on 24 Jan when a PW from the D4 Bn vicinity YS26085 stated his Bn was preparing to move into the Thu Duc area to participate in the next offensive. In mid-February the D2 and D4 Bns apparently began their westward deployment, and elements of both Bns were identified on 24 Feb vic XS978947. A series of contacts from 24 Feb to 2 Mar resulted in 46 KIA, 11 PWs, and 1 H-1 Chac. Interrogation of the ralliers and PWs indicated that the Bns had received replacements in late 68 bringing them to a combined strength of approximately 600 men. The forces in contact were identified as elements from the D2, D4, and D8 Bns which crossed the Dong Nai River via sampans on 23 Feb enroute to what one PW referred to as the "Battle of Thu Duc". The remainder of the Regiment had remained east of the Dong Nai River, and the advanced elements were forced to disperse. Radar sightings in early and mid-March, as well as AF contacts resulting in body counts on 4, 8, 9 and 22 Mar, in the same area are probably attributable to Thu Duc elements, though no firm identification was made. Documents found in the area identified D2, D4, and D6, though the units themselves were not contacted until 28 Mar. On this date 4/2 18 Inf vic XS940948 was engaged by an estimated 30 VC. A sharp contact resulted in 10 VC KIA and 2 PWs. The force was identified as an element of the D4 Bn. The PW indicated the strength of the D4 Bn had fallen between 40 and 50 men. They also stated they had been given orders to hide and avoid allied troops when possible. One PW also provided a strength figure of the D2 Bn as approximately 250 men and the D6 as 80-150 men. The Bns of the 1st VC Regt have not been contacted since 28 Mar and probably remain dispersed with elements both in the Thu Duc District and east of the Dong Nai River. Though they have sustained casualties these Bns are capable of limited action. Indications are now that the regimental headquarters was disbanded and that the Bns of the Thu Duc Regt are under direct control of SR-4. The rationale for this view is as follows. A 23 Feb PW and former staff cadre of SR-4 captured in the Thu Duc District states that the 1st VC Regt was dissolved between Aug and Sep, 1968 with its Bns becoming directly subordinate to SR-4. This story has been corroborated by several batches of documents (YS239871) which listed codes and LBNs of SR-4 with no entry for the 1st VC Regt. The main substantiation comes from 24 Mar documents captured vic YS239821 by Thai forces including a letter to "R" (AKA COSVN). This letter indicated that the Regimental Headquarters (B1) at the D5 Sapper Bn had been deactivated. The D2 and D4 Infantry Bns were reorganized and two new units the D6 Arty Bn and D8 Sapper Engr Bn were formed as of 21 Aug 68.

4 Fifth VC Division: The Fifth Division completed its first relocation into War Zone D prior to the start of the reporting period and attempted to fulfill its mission in the Winter-Spring campaign by sending its regiments against the Long Binh Bien Hoa area in Mar. After a series of reverses, the Division withdrew back into War Zone D for refitting and resupplying, leaving one of its regiments, the 95th, to maintain a presence in the area south of the Dong Nai River. It evaded significant contact in this base area during Apr and shows no signs of relocating from the area.

a 275th Regt: During the week of the 23rd through the 27th of Feb, the 275th Regiment attempted to carry out its mission against the Long Binh/Bien Hoa area. On the night of 22/23 Feb, a 40 man element from the 1st Bn/275th Regt entered Hoa City. By 23 Feb, 16 of those men had been killed and 4 taken prisoner. Morning of 26 Feb 69, while the 1st Bn/275th Regt and D4 (Heavy Weapons Co) 27 attacked Bien Hoa Airbase, the 3d Bn, 275th Regt attacked Ke Sat Hamlet. The 3d was engaged before it reached the airbase and suffered heavy losses. The 3d suffered heavy losses in the hamlets of Loc Lam and Ke Sat. These engagements resulted in over 250 KIA, 30 KBA, and 60 PWs. Following this phase of the off the remaining elements were believed to have withdrawn to War Zone D. On 1 Mar RVN forces, 16 km NW of Xuan Hoc (YT 4226), received a ground attack from elements of the 1st Bn, 275th Regt. The contact resulted in 49 enemy KIA and 6 PWs. Mar the 275th Regt lost 24 KIA in the same area (YT 4125) when an APM unit made contact. Then on 17 Mar the 275th Regt lost another 34 KIA in a contact vic YT 5126. At YT 3531 the 1st and 2d Bns, 3 Mike Strike Force (SF) made contact with an estimated two enemy battalions on 24 Mar. The contact lasted two days and resulted in 204 enemy KIA. Documents found identified the 2d Bn, 275th Regt. Documents picked up by B/1-9 on 3 Apr vicinity YT386405 identified elements of the 275th Regt. A 13 Apr rallier stated that the 95th Regt has replaced the 275th Regt and the 275th Regt has withdrawn to War Zone D. The 275th Regt has probably moved back to War Zone D to recuperate from losses suffered in Feb and Mar. Recent sensor activity in Apr may indicate heavy Rear Service unit activity and/or the arrival of replacements for the Regt.

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b 174th Regt: A PW taken in a contact on 24 Feb vicinity YT073224 identified his unit as HQ, 174th Regt. According to the PW, the Regiment began moving toward Bien Hoa on the nights of 23/24 Feb. Documents captured on 20 Feb at YT170739 identified a company of the 174th Regt. A PW captured on 24 Feb said the mission of the Regt was to cross the Dong Nai River and move to Bien Hoa and then on to Saigon. However, the Regt was dispersed by artillery fire after crossing the river. A regimental recon company identified by 17 Feb documents captured at YT101350 had probably reconned avenues of approach. During Mar elements of the 174th Regt were believed to be located in base areas in the Catchers Mitt. Documents taken from 13 VC KIA on 14 Mar vicinity YT089070 identified C22 and C17 Cos, 174th Regt. This unit appeared to be made up of wounded personnel who were moving east into War Zone D when they were contacted. On 17 Mar documents removed from 12 KIA following a contact vicinity YT058208 identified elements of the 2d Bn, 174th Regt. The 174th Regt was contacted again on 27 Mar vicinity YT523353 by two companies of 43d Regt of the 1st ARVN Div. The unit engaged was estimated as an enemy company. A PW taken from the contact identified his unit as 1 Co, U/I Bn, 174th Regt. He said his unit crossed the Dong Nai River vicinity YT502410 with 8 other companies. Mission of the units was to attack military trucks on Highway 20. During Apr the only significant contact made with elements of the 174th Regt was on 12 Apr vicinity YT 1037. Documents identified the Recon Co of the 174th Regt. Results of contact were 5 VC KIA. The 17 Mar contact would seem to indicate a major relocation of the 174th Regt but through analysis it is believed that the Regiment is located in the Catchers Mitt and southwestern War Zone D area. Its probable mission at this time is one of resupplying and refitting.

c 95A Regiment: In mid-February the 95A Regt from II Corps entered southern War Zone D and later moved into U-1 Province. Documents captured on 19 Feb, and dated 29 Jan, were found at YT 2337. They identified the 18th Signal and 21st Recon Companies/95A Regt. The documents showed that the Regt CP was located at YT 1520. A rallier, who said he was the XO and Adjutant of the 12th Co/3d Bn/95A Regt turned himself in at TY010120 on 28 Feb. He stated the Regt was located at YT 2230. During Mar documents picked up vicinity YT 2521 identified elements of the 95th Regt (10 Mar). Documents were captured within 3 kms of contact which took place vicinity YT 2422 and YT 2520, on 9 and 11 Mar. On 24 Mar a 1st Cav Div MDP vicinity TY 2512 received ground probes from an estimated two enemy platoons. Forty NVA were killed in this encounter and document readouts identified the 2d Bn, 95th Regt. On 29 Mar vicinity YT 2218, 3-52 ARVN Regt contacted an enemy force. The results were 9 VC/NVA KIA. Documents identified the 1st Bn, 95th Regt. A rallier, Nguyen Van Vinh, on 11 Apr stated his battalion was located vicinity TY 2414. He stated the mission of his unit was to attack Gau Han (vicinity YT 2610) and Hung Nghia (vicinity YT300.. for the purpose of acquiring food for his unit. On 13 Apr vicinity YT 2511, 1Lt Nguyen Minh rallied to 2-52 ARVN. He identified himself as the CO of the Combat Training Section, HQ, U-1 Province. According to Minh, the 275th Regt received heavy casualties and withdrew north across the Dong Mai River. The 95th Regt replaced the 275th Regt and has a dual mission of operating in the Rach Dong area (vicinity Yf 1620) and supporting HQ, U-1. 27 and 28 Bns are believed to be operating in the vicinity of YT 2717 to protect caches. The 95th Regt is expected to remain in the area of northwestern U-1 Province, dispersed between the Dong Mai River and Hwy 1, acting as a forward element of the Div. Its mission is probably to conduct attacks by fire on allied elements in their area and also to supply U-1 HQ.

(f) Local Force units within the 1st Infantry Division TAOI: During the reporting period local forces initiated contacts decreased to a low level. Although VC forces have continued to support main body forces by acting as guides, reconning for future missions, transporting supplies and wounded personnel as well as conducting harassing actions against allied installations and lines of communications, and has been conducted at a relatively low level because of the local forces being used to quickly replace personnel, train them and equip them during the reporting period. Local forces however have maintained their pressure at disrupting the GVN pacification program by conducting an extensive propaganda mission in an attempt to get the populace to demand a coalition government and to demand that the allies leave Vietnam. The following local force units have been active within the 1st Infantry Division TAOI during the reporting period.

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1 C61 Ben Cat District Company: During the reporting period the 1st Infantry Division began operating in the normal area of operation of C61 and Ben Cat District, causing C61 to move north along the Chi Tinh River and disperse along its tributaries and in the northeastern section of the Trapezoid. During this period C61 ... and harassed daily US Rome Plow operations operating west of Lai Khe in the jungle base area of C61. This left only the dense vegetation along the Thi Tinh River as a place to hide for C61, making it extremely difficult for C61 to establish base camps in this area and to move undetected. During the later part of Apr it became increasingly more evident that C61 was having difficulty acquiring food. F's and ralliers during Apr indicated morale was low because of the lack of sufficient food supplies. Presently the strength of C61 is believed to be approximately 50 personnel. During the reporting period it was verified that C61 Ben Cat District Company has been the guide for and acted as security for artillery units subordinate to COSVN and SR-1 which have been responsible for the heavy rocket and mortar attacks Lai Khe and Phuoc Vinh received during late Feb and early Mar.

2 C62 Chau Thanh District Company: During the months of Feb and Mar C62 avoided contacts and remained in its base areas in Chau Thanh District. Because of its heavy losses during the later months of 1968 C62 has avoided contact while it resupplied and replaced its personnel and trained people. During Apr C62 was engaged and identified frequently in Chau Thanh District. These frequent identifications and contacts indicate C62 is strong enough to venture outside its base areas and attempt missions such as attacks by fire, harassing LOCs, and propaganda and terrorist type activities. A contact at the end of Apr resulted in the death of ... Chau, the CO of C62 Chau Thanh District. This indicates the C62 may attempt to retaliate for this loss by increasing its harassing attacks by fire and ambushes.

3 C63 Lai Thieu District Company: During the reporting period C63 Lai Thieu District Company remained out of contact unless it was fired upon in an ambush. C63 worked closely with the Dong Nai Regiment during the Spring Campaign, providing the Dong Nai Regiment with food supplies and acting as liaison to coordinate main force and guerrillas efforts in Lai Thieu District. C63 during this period played the role of a commo-liaison unit in support of a main force element. During this period C63 did not operate in its area of operation, thus creating a vacuum in this area south of Thu Cuong City, which was eventually filled by C65 Thu Cuong City Platoon. On 21 Apr the most significant contact with this unit in this reporting period occurred. Three VC from C63 were killed and various items of equipment were captured. This indicates C63 is no longer operating as a commo-liaison unit and is once again operating as a local force element in the An Son area.

4 C65 Phu Cuong City Platoon: During the months of Feb and Mar C65 Phu Cuong City Platoon avoided contact while remaining in its jungle base area in Phu Giao District, NE of Lai Khe. Not until Apr did C65 move out of its base area down to its area of operation around Phu Cuong City. On 1 Apr, C65 was engaged and sustained between 15-19 personnel lost in action, reducing the strength of C65 by approximately 1/3. Since this period C65 has avoided all contacts but is still believed to be located in the area around Phu Cuong City, possibly carrying on propaganda and terrorist type activities.

5 C301 Thu Giao District Company: The C301 Phu Giao District Company avoided contact during Feb, Mar, and Apr. C301 is believed to be responsible for the interdiction of Highways 1A, 2A, and 1B, along with collecting taxes and supplying within its area of operation. It is believed C301 is also conducting training classes for the village guerrillas and organizing political groups in villages and hamlets who will work toward the formation of a coalition government. C301 has been known to operate frequently in the Phuoc Hoa and Phuoc Vinh areas.

6 Quyet Thang Regiment 273C: The 273C Regiment is presently composed of 3 battalions: 1st Main Force Bn, 2d Local Force Bn, and the 4 Gia Dinh Sapper Bn, comprising a strength of approximately 800-850 personnel. During the reporting period the Quyet Thang Regiment moved out of its base area in the Trapezoid down along the east and west banks of the Saigon River beside the Iron Triangle. Throughout this period the regiment dispersed itself along the entire western side of the Iron Triangle beside the Saigon River in company and platoon sized elements. At first it appeared that the 273C Regiment was attempting to move south into the Hoc Ton area but this

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has been proven false. It appears the 273C Regt is staying in the Iron Triangle and has in recent weeks ventured across the Saigon River into the Filhol Plantation area where it has been in contact. This tends to indicate that the 273C Regt is in this area to present a show of force in the villages and hamlets and to act as a pressure point in the 1st Infantry Division TAOI causing the 1st Division to keep men in reserve should the 273C Regt decide to assume an offensive rather than defensive posture. The 4 Gia Dinh Sapper Bn is believed to be dispersed along the Saigon River Corridor in and around Phu Cuong City. It has been noted during Apr that agent reports indicated the Phu Cuong Bridge would once again become the target for the Gia Dinh Sapper Bn. An attempt in Mar to recon the bridge failed when one member of the recon element was captured. It is expected the Gia Dinh Sapper Bn will make another attempt at the Phu Cuong Bridge in the near future.

f. (C) Logistics

(1) During the reporting period a Supply and Logistics Assistance Team (SLAT) was established as part of the 1st Infantry Division, G4. The purpose of this team is to improve the logistics posture of units within the Division. Specific responsibilities of the team are:

(a) To conduct supply and logistics inspections for each divisional unit within each fiscal year as part of the unit AGI;

(b) To conduct courtesy inspections upon request and to instruct supply personnel through on-the-spot corrections, on-the-job training and practical experience utilizing the unit's supply records as a training vehicle;

(c) To research and conduct command inspections on areas of special interest;

(d) To make assistance visits to units upon request. Prior to formulation of the SLAT, the G4 and AGI sections were totally without qualified technical inspectors to conduct supply inspections at property book levels and had no method at their disposal to provide continuity on successive inspections. Accordingly, the division's logistics posture was suffering degradation due to a lack of standards and inspection criteria governing all areas of supply management and accountability. During the quarter, SLAT conducted inspections in all units scheduled for the USARV AGI during the period 30 May - 7 Apr 69 and courtesy inspections in other units. The overall satisfactory results attained by units on their USARV AGI has proven SLAT to be a very effective and beneficial tool in the division's logistics improvement program. Also during the quarter, SLAT completed a Division TOE/MTOE Equipment Recapitulation. Due to the Army's conversion to the Army Authorization Document System (TAADS), the division does not have a consolidated TOE/MTOE equipment recapitulation showing total division assets authorized, and the division had no method of determining how much or what each unit was authorized. In order to ascertain what each unit was authorized, SLAT initiated a project to manually post (utilizing a spread sheet process) all divisional units' MTOE's to basic TOE's, the resultant figure being what each unit is ultimately authorized. Upon completing all unit TOE/MTOE postings, a division recapitulation was formed showing line number of equipment authorized battalions and separate companies and the total assigned by each line item authorized the Division. Utilizing the individual unit spread during inspections, SLAT has saved several hundred thousand dollars worth of equipment by identifying and eliminating numerous excesses in the division. Further, by using the same process, SLAT has established all property book authorizations to considerable accuracy (in those units inspected thus far), and units now find that they are authorized equipment of which they previously had no knowledge. The SLAT actions enhance supply requisitioning, accounting and reporting and contribute to overall combat effectiveness of the division.

(2) During the reporting period, the 1st Infantry Division CMMI was attached to the IG Team for purposes of preparing divisional units for the USARV IG inspection. The USARV IG Inspection was conducted during the period 6-12 Apr 69. The purpose of this augmentation was to extend the scope and inspection areas of the Division IG to conform with the inspection areas of the USARV Team. The result proved most favorable as all 18 units inspected received an overall satisfactory score in the CMMI field of the USARV IG. More specifically, in the inspectional areas in

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each unit (wheeled vehicles, trailers, signal equipment, small arms, engineer equipment, chemical equipment, field ranges, ammunition storage, and maintenance management) there was only one score below 70%. The attachment of the CMMI Team to the IG Team will continue due to the satisfactory results to date. Additionally, the CMMI Team will conduct independent CMMI inspections in hopes of inspecting each divisional unit twice a year.

(3) During the reporting period, the 1st Infantry Division pathfinders, from the 1st Aviation Battalion, conducted inspections of aerial delivery rigging procedures and equipment being used in the infantry and artillery battalions. The purpose of these inspections was to preclude personal injury and loss of property due to faulty rigging and equipment. As a result of these inspections most of the outdated slings and cargo nets in the division have been eliminated and present equipment will continue to be turned in as it becomes obsolete. The units are continually kept aware of the proper method of rigging different type loads for aerial delivery. Through these inspections the loss of property and personal injury have been kept to a minimum. The Pathfinder inspection team is attached to one of the brigades or DIVARTY for the purpose of inspecting all of their units at both the base camps and field locations. The complete inspection cycle of all division units takes approximately two months. Upon completion the cycle begins again.

g. (C) Organization: Several major organizational changes took place within the 1st Infantry Division during the reporting period.

(1) The Long Range Patrol Co, Company F (LRP), 52d Infantry, was inactivated by USARPAC General Order 66 dated 27 January 1969. Under the same General Order, Company I (Ranger), 75th Infantry was activated and organized. USARV General Order 557 dated 17 February 1969 assigned Company I (Ranger), 75th Infantry, to 1st Infantry Division. 1st Infantry Division General Order Number 2533 dated 9 April 1969 attached Company I(Ranger), 75th Infantry, to 3d Bde, 1st Infantry Division, with an effective date of 1 April 1969.

(2) The only major reorganization within the 1st Infantry Division that took place during this reporting period was the reorganization of the 1st Avn Bn and the 1st Sqdn, 4th Cav. Upon receipt of USARPAC General Order 93, dated 31 January 1969 the 1st Infantry Division published General Order 2031 dated 24 March 1969 reorganizing 1st Avn Bn and 1st Sqdn, 4th Cav with an effective date of 22 March 1969.

(a) The 1st Avn Bn was reorganized under MTOE 1-75G, with a strength level of 47 Officers, 58 Warrant Officers, 318 Enlisted Men, for a total of 423 men. Under the G-TOE the strength of Warrant Officers and Enlisted Men was increased by 4 Warrant Officers and 37 Enlisted Men. The equipment levels increased slightly. Hq is under MTOE 1-76G, Co A is under 1-77G, and Co B is under 1-78G.

(b) The 1st Sqdn, 4th Cav, was reorganized under the G-TOE with 50 Officers and 36 Warrant Officers, 963 Enlisted Men for a total of 1049 men. The G-TOE increased the over strength by 179 men: 1 Officer, 6 Warrant Officers, and 172 Enlisted Men. The units equipment levels increased in line with the personnel increases.

(3) With an effective date of 17 April 1969 Troop Delta (Air), 1st Sqdn, 4th Cavalry, was attached to HHC, 1st Aviation Battalion, 1st Infantry Division by 1st Infantry Division General Order Number 2738 dated 16 April 1969. The sqdn was attached to the 1st Aviation Battalion for all purposes but operational control... is exercised by the ACofS, G3.

(4) On 25 April 1969, 1st Infantry Division General Order 3013 was published organizing the Division Training Command (Provisional) with an effective date of 15 February 1969. All equipment and personnel are furnished from local resources. The mission of the Division Training Command is to provide combat indoctrination training for replacement personnel, train Kit Carson Scouts, conduct sniper training, provide tactics and weapons refresher training through MFTs, and train designated ARVN units.

(5) During the reporting period the following attachments occurred. 1st Infantry Division General Order 2077 dated 26 March 1969 attached the 242d Chemical Detachment to HHC, 1st Infantry Division. 1st Infantry Division General Order 2078

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dated 26 March 1969 attached the 266th Chemical Platoon to 1st Infantry Division Support Command. 1st Infantry Division General Order 2824 attached Ground Surveillance Section, Combat Support Company, 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry; Ground Surveillance Section, HHC, 2d Bn (Mech), 2d Infantry; and Ground Surveillance Section, Combat Support Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, to HNB, 1st Infantry Division Artillery. The same General Order attached Ground Surveillance Sections from Combat Support Company, 2d Battalion, 16th Infantry; Combat Support Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry; Combat Support Company, 2d Battalion, 18th Infantry, to Headquarters, Headquarters and Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery. Ground Surveillance Sections from HHC, 1st Battalion (Mech), 16th Infantry; Combat Support Company, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry; Combat Support Company, 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry, were attached to Headquarters, Headquarters and Service Battery, 2d Battalion, 33d Artillery.

h. (C) Psychological Operations.

(1) Psychological operations this quarter were aimed at three general target groups:

- (a) Civilians
- (b) NVA/VC
- (c) VCI

(2) During the quarter a total of 15,108,000 leaflets were disseminated and 233:30 hours of loudspeaker broadcast and 786:50 hours ground operations were employed in support of the division. The following is a breakdown, by unit, of support operations.

UNIT	LEAFLETS	BROADCAST TIME	GROUND OPERATIONS
1st Brigade	1,997,000	28 hours 35 min	15 hours 20 min
2d Brigade	8,476,000	120 hours 15 min	370 hours 30 min
3d Brigade	4,125,000	65 hours 20 min	89 hours 30 min
11th ACR	510,000	19 hours 20 min	310 hours 30 min
TOTAL:	15,108,000	233 hours, 30 min	786 hours 50 min

i. (U) Civic Action/Civic Affairs

(1) The MEDCAP program, now redesignated ICAP to reflect greater emphasis on the intelligence-gathering phase of the operation, has made significant progress in Ben Cat District, Binh Duong Province. The Ben Cat District Government has requested that American medical assistance to be reduced to a continuous advisory program for the Government's own medical personnel. Accordingly the division no longer conducted ICAPs in this district as such. The district government has assumed responsibility for treating its people. The division is encouraging other district governments increase their own medical care capabilities as well.

(2) One new program the division has found particularly effective is a... of educational trips for children. In these, school children are taken from the area of operation by fixed wing, Chinook aircraft, or by bus for a daylong trip to Saigon. There they visit the Presidential Palace, the National Assembly, the national and historical shrines. These children, most of whom have never seen Saigon, are subjected to the environment of a growing, modern, and free metropolis. The... all this is transferred back to the parents who hopefully will realize GVN is a true supporter of the people. Follow-up by GVN teams exploiting the GVN will make the people more receptive and their propaganda more meaningful.

(3) The division has made progress in establishing Friendship Councils to supplement the Community Relations Program. Each Sunday the 1/4 Cav invites Vietnamese government officials and private citizens from Di An District and the surrounding area to have lunch and attend a special briefing. The meetings have provided an opportunity to exchange ideas about improving community relations and making Civic Action Projects more effective.

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2. (C) Section 2, Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations, and Recommendations.

a. (U) Personnel: None

b. (C) Operations:

(1) Land Clearing Operations.

(a) Observation: The enemy can deter the efficiency of a land clearing unit by the emplacement of anti-tank mines in the proposed area to be cleared. If the enemy is permitted to control the terrain until the land is cleared, personnel and equipment damages will be excessive.

(b) Evaluation: Reconnaissance in force operations must be conducted continuously throughout the area to be cleared, so as to root out the enemy and preclude his easy access into and out of the area. Ambushes in the prepared area for clearing will deter enemy mining parties from entering into the area. Further, artillery and tactical air preparations of terrain to be cleared can detonate emplaced mines and booby traps and discourage enemy units from remaining in the area.

(c) Recommendations: That units involved in land clearing operations conduct extensive RIF and ambush activities in the area to be cleared and that artillery and air preparations be used prior to cutting operations.

(2) Village and Hamlet Seals.

(a) Observation: Units involved in seal operations are frequently required to maneuver outside of the immediate seal area, so as to search out cache or base camp areas. Further, to effectively maintain the seal, units must ambush probable routes into and out of the village. Effective fire coordination cannot be achieved unless areas of operation or zones of responsibility beyond the seal are designated.

(b) Evaluation: Areas adjacent to villages must be designated as unit areas of operation in addition to unit responsibilities within the seal. The designation of AOs beyond the seal will insure that units are aware of their responsibilities beyond the immediate seal and will allow for effective fire coordination, planning and execution.

(c) Recommendations: That headquarters responsible for coordinating and effecting village seals designate areas of operation beyond the immediate periphery of the seal AO, so as to allow for effective fire coordination.

(3) Hunter-Killer Team/Forward Air Controller Joint Reconnaissance.

(a) Observation: Aerial reconnaissance by Hunter-Killer Teams has proved to be a most effective means of locating enemy base camp areas from the air. When joined with a forward air controller, the HKT provides an excellent means of pinpointing and marking areas for the FAC to direct tactical air into an enemy or base camp area.

(b) Evaluation: Tactical air strikes can be directed more effectively against targets initially detected by a Hunter-Killer Team for a forward air controller.

(c) Recommendation: That Hunter-Killer Teams work in conjunction with the air controllers in target selection for tactical air strikes whenever the aircraft are available.

(4) Long Range Patrol Techniques for Infantry Companies.

(a) Observation: The enemy is frequently provided early warning as to friendly locations due to the practices of US units conducting daily aerial resupply. Further, the technique of having units move constantly during daylight hours, so to attempt to establish contact with the enemy, often results in meeting engagement which cause unit locations to be revealed. The enemy has a decided advantage in

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observing excessive moves by friendly units during daylight hours and in having the opportunity of establishing hasty and deliberate ambushes, or if he chooses, in avoiding contact. Enemy movements have been most frequent immediately prior to and during hours of darkness and reduced visibility.

(b) Evaluation: Engagements can be more effective by conducting operations during daylight hours which reduce movement, preclude enemy detection, and allow time during daylight hours for the deliberate establishment of ambushes along avenues of approach, thereby having ambushes well established when the enemy is most likely to be moving. Friendly forces are also given the opportunity for adequate rest during the warmest hours of the day. This enables them to be most responsive when enemy units are encountered.

(c) Recommendation: That units of platoons and squads conduct extensive long range patrol type actions which are characterized by minimum movement, deliberate ambush establishment and execution, and extended periods (3 days) of operation without resupply.

(5) Employment of Mobile Resource Control Teams.

(a) Observation: The resource control program has become extremely effective in the last reporting period.

(b) Evaluation: Mobile Resource Control Team operations have improved in effectiveness from an average of 250 detainees per quarter one year ago to 748 detainees in the last reporting period and 1024 detainees in this reporting period. Enemy reaction to the MRCT program has resulted in three incidents of enemy initiated actions during the period. On 6 Feb an MRCT observed a 35 lb tilt rod mine concealed at their normal checkpoint. On 21 Mar a MRCT was ambushed near Lai Theiu, resulting in two MPs KIA. On 11 Apr a boobytrap was detonated near a MRCT resulting in one MP WIA. Three important techniques have been utilized during the recent periods. First, Mobile Resource Control Teams have been stabilized, and team members have worked together for extended periods of time, increasing their team effectiveness and knowledge of the total area. Second, a continual evaluation and compilation of team results is being accomplished using team logs, daily SITREPS, and spot maps. Teams are now employed for specific periods at specific locations where past results have indicated a high probability for attempted VC/NVA infiltration. The experience and recommendations of Vietnamese team members is heavily relied upon. Third, teams are now employed at times and locations not previously utilized. Through close support with the maneuver battalions, MRCTs are now employed during the early morning and evening hours along prime avenues of VC infiltration.

(c) Recommendation: The above factors be considered MRCT employment.

(6) Floating Night Ambushes.

(a) Observation: The VC use sampans to move personnel and supplies along inland waterways.

(b) Evaluation: The 2-16 Inf and 2-18 Inf are now using engineer boats on night ambushes along waterways used by the VC sampan traffic. Three 20 foot aluminum boats are sent out each night with six infantrymen and two boat operators. Three of four ambush sites are selected during daylight, and the ambush moves from position to position during the night. Each boat has a PRC-25 radio and a machinegun, and boats are within supporting distance of each other. Three men placed on the shore to provide security for the ambush.

(c) Recommendation: That FVMAF operating in the vicinity of waterways employ the floating ambush.

(7) Daylight Ambushes.

(a) Observation: A daylight ambush program has begun where ambush patrols are deployed in small groups of three and four men, positioned so as to observe likely VC routes. A portion of these men are equipped with sniper rifles and sniper scope.

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It is felt that these techniques of "still" hunting will be effective against the small groups of two and three VC which are encountered in the nipa palu. The day APs have thus far eliminated 2 VC KIA and captured 2 VC PWs.

(c) Recommendation: That other US/ARVN forces consider the use of the daylight ambush.

(8) Day RIF against day AP.

(a) Observation: Small groups of 2-3 VC may avoid a RIF by moving away as the unit approaches.

(b) Evaluation: A RIF is conducted in the direction of the positions occupied by day AP. This technique may flush out VC from their hiding places and into the AP positions. Close coordination and control is necessary to avoid shooting friendly personnel.

(c) Recommendation: None; the procedure is being tested at this time.

(9) Stealth day RIF.

(a) Observation: The VC often hear the RIF elements approach and are able to avoid detection by evading the unit.

(b) Evaluation: The stealth RIF employs the slow quiet movement of RIF elements through an area in order to move up on the enemy without his detecting the maneuver. This technique may have particular appeal to hunters.

(c) Recommendation: None; the procedure is being tested at this time.

(10) Detailed area search.

(a) Observation: A significant number of kills during the past six months have resulted from finding the VC in holes or tunnels. The VC have also employed the same nearby tunnels for caches more than once.

(b) Evaluation: Battalions begin by plotting on a map the locations of tunnels and caches found since 1 Jan 69 selecting locations to be searched. Emphasis is placed on detailed search, not on covering a large area. Commanders insure their men are proficient in ways to recognize a tunnel. As tunnel or spider holes are uncovered in the field, units study their characteristics to improve methods for finding additional underground hiding places.

(c) Recommendation: That other units employ this detailed search procedure in areas of suspected VC activity.

(11) Day radar operations.

(a) Observation: Radar may be able to spot enemy movement, which can be attacked by US elements.

(b) Evaluation: This concept employs daytime radar, hunter-killer or teams, and ARPs or heliborne troops in combination. Radar sightings in largely unpopulated areas are likely to be enemy movement rather than friendly civilians. The radar assists in pinpointing possible enemy locations.

(c) Recommendations: None; this technique is being tested at this time.

(12) Tower installation.

(a) Observation: All sides of a tower should be braced before installing the platform.

(b) Evaluation: Recently a 45' Radar Tower was installed at Fort Seminole (SX980950) utilizing 3 telephone poles as legs. The tower had to be constructed as

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expeditiously as possible in order to put the radar in use immediately. The three poles were set 10 feet on center. Since this was to be constructed as fast as possible it was decided to brace only one side of the tower prior to construction of the platform. It was noted by the engineer platoon leader that by only bracing one side of the tower hazardous working conditions resulted. These unsafe conditions were multiplied by the length, weight, and bulk of the material used on the top. The tower was completely braced before installation of the platform.

(c) Recommendation: Tower emplacement is necessary for the successful observation of enemy routes and emplacements. Safety of personnel and ease of construction is enhanced if the tower is constructed from the ground on with all bracing complete before the installation of the tower platform.

(13) Culvert construction.

(a) Observation: Culverts have been lost due to crushing by vehicles.

(b) Evaluation: Recently at a Fire Support Base it was noted that the ends of culverts were being crushed by trucks because the ends of the culvert did not extend beyond the shoulders of the road.

(c) Recommendation: Increasing the length of culverts will enable vehicles to make turns without crushing the ends of the culvert and thereby continue proper drainage.

(14) Emplacing Airmobile towers.

(a) Observation: It is easier to emplace airmobile towers with footers attached.

(b) Evaluation: Experience in the 1st Engr Bn has shown that it is easier and less time consuming to install 20 foot wooden airmobile towers with the footers attached. It is extremely difficult and time consuming to try to emplace an airmobile tower on footers while it is suspended in the air due to the constant motions of the Chinook helicopter. It is also a safety hazard. One preparation that must be made is a laterite pad to insure that the tower is level when lowered on the footers.

(c) Recommendation: Recommend that airmobile towers be emplaced with the footers attached.

(15) Use of 40HP outboard motors on LTR half pontoon.

(a) Observation: 40 horse-power outboard motors provide necessary power for search and defoliation river missions on the LTR half pontoon.

(b) Evaluation: It was found that repair parts for the 25 HP outboard motors were hard to obtain and that these motors were giving insufficient speed to avoid enemy ambushes. For this reason the newer 40 HP outboards were put into use and found more suitable for this type of mission. It was found that in order to run properly it was necessary to lower and brace the rear transom of the LTR half pontoon so that seven (7) inches of draft was added to the propeller.

(c) Recommendation: That the newer 40 HP outboard motor be used in RVN for all river and defoliation missions.

(16) Use of Trestle Assemblies in Bridge Work.

(a) Observation: Utilization of trestle assemblies in bridge work is slow.

(b) Evaluation: During the reconstruction of a French Eiffel Bridge it was found that the work required the construction of a three float raft mounted with two (2) fifty-ton trestle assemblies to be used as a temporary intermediate span. This same system can be used in repairing long spans of Bailey Bridges.

(c) Recommendation: The raft trestle combination be used in repairing long spans of Bailey Bridges to save considerable time and trouble.

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AVDD-T (MHD)

15 May 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 1st Infantry Division for Period Ending
30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

(17) Uncharted minefields.

(a) Observation: Clearing uncharted minefields poses a number of considerations.

(b) Evaluation: Several problems are encountered with every request to clear a minefield. The key to many of these problems is not having a complete and accurate record of the minefield. Generally the number, type and trace of the mines is unknown. As a result of the confusion, tankdozers have been used to scrape off and/or to detonate mines by running over the suspected minefield. This practice has resulted in heavy damage to tankdozers and as they become combat losses, they are replaced by M48A3 tanks due to the unavailability of tankdozers.

(c) Recommendation: A decision to install a minefield should be carefully considered. Someone will have to remove the minefield eventually. (There should be a central control agency for minefields which can coordinate between ARVN and US units. It should be a policy that the installing unit will remove its own minefields, if feasible.

(1) Security of Rome Flow operations:

(a) Observation: Harassing and interdicting fire by accompanying security vehicles is beneficial to Rome Flow operations.

(b) Evaluation: The 60th Land Clearing Company has just completed clearing an area known to be an enemy base camp. Heavy mining and RPG activity was encountered. Reconnaissance by fire from tanks using 90mm cannister rounds, and ACAVs using machine guns was found to be quite successful in decreasing the number of incidents.

(c) Recommendation: Recommend that reconnaissance by fire from tanks and ACAV in conjunction with Rome Flow operations be used where enemy activity is present.

(19) VCI mining techniques.

(a) Observation: Mines have been found on AVLB bypasses.

(b) Evaluation: Enemy mines have been found on AVLB bypasses. These areas must be swept if it becomes necessary to use the AVLB. In the event of interdiction, it is recommended that ambushes be positioned at AVLB bypasses to counter the mining threat until the MSR is restored.

(c) Recommendation: That AVLB bypasses be swept when a mine sweep team sweeps the MSR. Further recommend that when AVLBs are being used that an ambush be located on or near the bypass.

c. (C) Training:

(1) Radio Relay and Carrier Attendants (MOS 31E20):

(a) Observation: The personnel being received in the MOS 31M20 are not trained in four principle areas - Antenna Erection, Troubleshooting Procedures and Generator PM.

(b) Evaluation: 1 The personnel arriving in the 121st Sig Bn in the whole are severely lacking training in antenna erection. In some cases the personnel only witnessed a demonstration of antenna erection in school, and when the time arrives to erect an antenna they have no practical knowledge.

2 MOS 31M20 personnel are unable to correct circuit and systems outages effectively. Poor restoral procedures are due to the inability of the 31M20 personnel to troubleshoot the equipment effectively. The operators troubleshoot equipment by replacements of components, rather than by symptom. After the reestablishment of the system, no one knows what was wrong with the system. The result is that components are turned into maintenance that are not inoperative, causing additional burdens on the maintenance system. Their basic background in system background is good, but they have trouble with the proper system restoral procedures.

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3 The 31M20s are required to operate and maintain their own equipment, to include the generators. Experience has shown that they are not familiar with the operation and maintenance of these generators, including TAERS.

(c) Recommendation: That the program of instruction for the 31M20 course be revised to allow more time in the areas of antenna erection, troubleshooting procedures, and generator PM/TAERS.

d. (U) Intelligence: None.

e. (C) Logistics:

(1) Military Engines:

(a) Observation: No spark has been observed on newly installed military standard engines.

(b) Evaluation: Investigation of the engine in each case revealed that the ignition coil had rusted.

(c) Recommendation: Immediately after unpacking a new military standard engine and before installing it, run a spark test on it. This will save much unnecessary work should the coils be rusted.

(2) Compression Cups of 81mm Mortar.

(a) Observation: There are a large number of unserviceable compression cups on the shock absorbers of 81mm mortars.

(b) Evaluation: Excess lubrication of the cup causes it to leak air and it quickly becomes unserviceable. Replacement of the cup is a time consuming direct support job.

(c) Recommendation: All using units should be advised to use a very sparing amount of lubricant on this item.

(3) AN/PRC Operation.

(a) Observation: AN/PRC radios become inoperative when used with the supply type pack frame.

(b) Evaluation: The exposed metal sections of the frame top can short out the radios' antenna. This can be prevented by wrapping black electrical tape around the top sections of the frame.

(c) Recommendation: All back packs used to carry AN/PRC 25s be taped in this manner.

(4) Use of Military L23699 Oil.

(a) Observation: The use of Mil L23699 high detergent oil in the L13 engine has prolonged engine life.

(b) Evaluation: Mil L23699 high detergent oil has proven very effective in reducing engine oil consumption in those L13 engines in which it is being used. Experience has shown that the oil should be converted at the time of engine installation or within 100 flying hours. Thorough flushing of the old non-detergent L7808 oil must be accomplished during the conversion.

(c) Recommendation: The oil in all L-13 aircraft engines should be converted to Mil L23699 as outlined above.

(5) Driveshaft driver oil for AH-1G.

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15 May 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 1st Infantry Division for Period Ending
30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

(a) Observation: Numerous problems have been encountered with the drive shaft driver oil cooling system on the earlier version of the AN-1G aircraft.

(b) Evaluation: A bleed air oil cooler system is used on newer models of the AH-1G and has been far more successful than the older drive shaft system. This bleed air system can be applied to the older model AH-1Gs as an MWO and would greatly reduce the field maintenance hours presently being expended to repair the drive shaft system.

(c) Recommendation: This MWO should be applied to all AH-1G aircraft as soon as operational requirements allow it.

(6) Final Drive Failures.

(a) Observation: There is high failure rate of final drives on track vehicles during heavy operations in heavy jungle.

(b) Evaluation: During these operations the primary factor in the high failure rate of the final drives is the requirement for the tracks to break through the thick underbrush encountered in heavy jungle. A resulting heavy demand is placed on the supply system when a major operation with track vehicles is conducted in this type of terrain.

(c) Recommendation: All necessary actions be taken to insure an adequate stockage of track vehicle final drives is on hand prior to any large operation in heavy jungle.

(7) 100KW Generator-Holt Brothers.

(a) Observation: Loss of power on Holt Brothers 100KW generator sets has been observed.

(b) Evaluation: Inspection of the generator set revealed that the fuel filter had not been changed at the proper interval, allowing them to become so clogged that not enough fuel could pass through them to keep the engine running at full power. After installation of new filters the generator set again operated correctly.

(c) Recommendation: Emphasis should be placed on changing fuel filters in the Holt Brothers 100KW generator sets.

(8) M79 Grenade Launchers.

(a) Observation: Cocking levers on the M79 grenade launchers become loose and unserviceable through normal usage.

(b) Evaluation: Rather than replacing the worn cocking lever, a simple shim can be placed between the receiver and the cocking lever. This satisfactorily tightens the lever, resulting in much time saved and fewer levers expended.

(c) Recommendation: Armament shops consider repairing worn cocking levers using a shim rather than by replacement of the lever.

(9) Installation of the M105 Telescope Mount.

(a) Observation: Improper installation of the M105 Telescope Mount can cause severe damage.

(b) Evaluation: The M105 telescope is mounted adjacent to the main gun in M48A3 turret and is supported in the rear by an "L" shaped mount which is located just above the manual firing mechanism for the main gun. If the mount is not properly secured to the telescope it will swing down to a position just below the firing mechanism. If the main gun is elevated with the mount in this position, the manual firing mechanism will be forced against the mount causing it damage.

(c) Recommendation: The M105 telescope mount must be secured in the proper

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15 May 1969

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30 April 1969, RGS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

position at all times and checked frequently to insure that it has not become loose. If mounting bolts are not available, the mount should be completely removed and stored until the proper bolts are available.

(f) (C) Organization:

(1) Airborne Personnel Detector.

(a) Observation: The Airborne Personnel Detector is being used extensively as an intelligence collecting medium and can become more useful as refinements are developed to improve its reliability.

(b) Evaluation: The original concept of personnel detection was based on the machine's ability to detect human beings because of some product emitted solely by man (ammonia). Although there has been much doubt in the commander's mind concerning the reliability of the instrument, he was willing to accept it on the basis of its theoretical operating concept. A considerable effort has been made by the laboratory to disprove the basic theory of operation. Subsequently, a new model has been developed which is only more sensitive to the normal conditions that exist in a battlefield environment.

(c) Recommendation: Research should be continued in the development of a true human detector. The original theoretical concept should be explored to determine some other things that are solely peculiar to man and which can be detected by the machine.

(2) Defoilants.

(a) Observation: In the Vietnam environment a considerable effort is made to rid specific areas of vegetation. This is particularly true in any area involving security such as traffic routes and defense perimeters.

(b) Evaluation: Defoilants have been used around base camps to kill vegetation. The standard defoilants available in-country do not fulfill the commander's requirements. Approved projects have been obtained to defoliate base camp perimeters. Perimeters are sprayed with a defoliant and burned off. Within 30 to 60 days almost complete regrowth occurs. In addition to the standard defoilants inability to provide semi-permanent kill to foliage, there is the inherent danger of run off or seepage into the local waterways which can cause damage to crops during the rainy season which is also the growth season.

(c) Recommendation: A contact kill chemical spray should be developed. The spray must not possess any residual effects nor present hazard to vegetation other than that to which it is directly applied.

(3) Teletypewriter TT-4/TG, Reperforator - Transmitter TT-76/GGC, and typewriter TT-98.

(a) Observation: The TT-4, TT-76, and TT-98 teletype equipment are slow in speed, antiquated, and unreliable.

(b) Evaluation: The TT-4s, TT-76s, and TT-98s have been in the inventory too long a period of time. The teletype equipment presently on hand are the same items of equipment that were issued to this unit prior to its departure for RVN and have been in constant 24-hour service since arrival in RVN. The equipment has been repaired, adjusted, and readjusted numerous times; consequently it is now approaching a point of being almost unrepairable. Experience has shown that speeds above ... are prohibited due to a vast increase in maintenance requirements. The slowness of the equipment, in addition to the daily large volume of messages, produces an undesirable backlog.

(c) Recommendation: That a new generation of tactical teletype equipment be developed, with faster speed, ease of maintenance, and better reliability.

g. (C) Other:

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AVDD-T (MHD)

15 May 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 1st Infantry Division for Period Ending
30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

(1) PsyOps Directed at VCI and Local Village Guerrillas.

(a) Observation: Impersonal PsyOps is not an effective means of approaching VCI and local VC village guerrillas with the concept of Chieu Hoi.

(b) Evaluation: VCI and local village guerrillas are not usually affected by impersonal quantitative PsyOp such as that disseminated by aerial leaflet and loud-speaker missions. These impersonal media lack the impact needed to override their deep ideological beliefs and to achieve the desired response of rallying. The enemy personnel are not subject to the same pressures, i.e. air and artillery, lack of food, that their field units must endure. They do not have the same psychological vulnerabilities. The white envelope concept, originated by the 2d Bde S5 is an excellent media with which to communicate with local VC/VCI. This program reaches the VC/VCI through their families. Each family who has a relative in the VC/VCI is given a white envelope. The envelope contains a letter of amnesty from the local village or District Chief, a Chieu Hoi appeal, rally instructions, and a safe conduct pass. This system brings psychological pressure on both the family and the target.

(c) Recommendation: That OB sections and S5s establish a system where continual targeting of this nature can be employed. A thorough, comprehensive campaign of this nature should yield worthwhile results.

3. (U) Section 3, Headquarters, Department of the Army Survey Information. None.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

16 Incl

- 1-Organizational Structure
2-List of Key Commanders
3-Force Disposition
4-1st Bde Operational Report Lessons Learned
5-2d Bde Operational Report Lessons Learned
6-3d Bde Operational Report Lessons Learned
7-Support Command Operational Report Lessons Learned
8-Division Chemical Section Operational Report Lessons Learned
9-1st Aviation Bn Operational Report Lessons Learned
10-1st Arty Bn Operational Report Lessons Learned
11-121st Sig Bn Operational Report Lessons Learned
12-1st Lt Company Operational Report Lessons Learned
13-Commander's Notes #2
14-leaflet, Fundamentals of Engineer Support
15-Mechanized/Cavalry Night Defensive Positions and Fire Support Patrol
16-Lessons Learned-VCI Operations

WILLIAM J. BRIDGES
1LT, AGC
Asst AG

DISTRIBUTION:

- 3-CG, IIFV, ATTN: G-3 Analysis
1-CG, IIFV, ATTN: 7th FHD
3-CG, USARV, ATTN: AVIGC (DST)
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2-CDRUS-RI AG, ATTN: GRUF-DT
1-OCIN, DA
2-17th FHD

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AVFBC-RE-H (15 May 69) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 1st Infantry Division for Period Ending
30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

DA, HQ II FFORCEV, APO San Francisco 96266 14 JUN 1969

THRU: Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC(DST); APO 96375

Commander-In-Chief, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D.C. 20310

This headquarters has reviewed and concurs with the Operational Report -
Lessons Learned of the 1st Infantry Division for the period ending 30
April 1969, with the following exception and comment .

a. Reference paragraph 1e(1)(e) 4 c, line 23. "Northwestern" should
read "northeastern".

b. Reference paragraph 2b(17).

(1) Policies regarding mine warfare in II FFORCEV are announced in
Annex N, II FFORCEV Tactical Standing Operating Procedure, dated 13 March
1969. Offices of record for minefields are as follows:

(a) US/FWMAF: 517 Engineer Detachment (Terrain)

(b) ARVN: III CTZ Engineer

(2) A report is submitted periodically of all known minefields in
III CTZ. This report goes to all assigned, attached, and OPCON units in
II FFORCEV as required.

(3) It is known that uncharted minefields exist throughout the area.
Many of these date back to French operations in the area. The marking,
recording, and reporting of these minefields is the responsibility of the
unit discovering it, as outlined in FM 20-32.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



B. G. MACDONALD
1LT, AGC
Assl AG

AVHGC-DST (15 May 1969) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 1st Infantry Division for Period Ending
30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 2 2 JUL 1969

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1969 from Headquarters, 1st Infantry Division.

2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning "Uncharted Minefields," section II, page 34, paragraph b(17); concur that the decision to install a minefield should be carefully considered. MACV Directive 525-30, dated 8 June 1969, establishes policies and procedures for the employment of land mines in RVN, and adequately prescribes necessary records and reports for the transfer of minefield responsibility between US and RVNAF units. Nonconcur that it should become policy that an installing unit will remove its own minefields. If a minefield is removed shortly after being emplaced, the knowledge and experience of the emplacing unit would be a distinct asset in the removal operation. However, if the minefield has been emplaced for a considerable amount of time, this advantage is lost. In either case, a thorough and accurate minefield record, if available, is the key to a successful removal operation.

b. Reference item concerning "VCI mining techniques," section II, page 34, paragraph b(19); nonconcur. Under circumstances requiring the employment of an AVLB, mining of the bypass should be suspected and a sweep conducted. Concur that ambushes be positioned near installed AVLBs. When feasible, an AVLB should not be left unsecured, and an ambush is recommended near any area of suspected mining activity.

c. Reference item concerning "Radio Relay and Carrier Attendants (MOS 31M20)," section II, pages 34-35, paragraph c(1); concur. This matter has been previously recognized by Headquarters USARV. Action is currently in progress which will forward this matter to the US Army Southeastern Signal School at Fort Gordon, Georgia for appropriate resolution.

d. Reference item concerning "Compression Cups of 81mm Mortar," section II, page 35, paragraph e(2); concur. TM 9-3064 and IO 9-260 apply. Authorized lubrication points are specified and only light lubrication of bearing surfaces is prescribed. Lubrication of the compression cup is not authorized because oil will cause the rubber to become unserviceable. Proper lubrication of 81mm mortars will be emphasized in the monthly USARV Maintenance Summary. No further action required at higher headquarters.

AVHGC-DST (15 May 1969) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 1st Infantry Division for Period Ending
30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

e. Reference item concerning "Use of Military L23699 Oil," section II, page 35, paragraph e(4); concur, USARV Letter, subject: Use of MIL-L-23699 and MIL-L-7808 Oils in Army Turbine Powered Aircraft, dated 3 May 1969, directed the use of MIL-L-23699 in all Army aircraft turbine engines.

f. Reference item concerning "Driveshaft driver oil for AH-1G," section II, page 35, paragraph e(5); concur. MWO 55-1520-221-30/11, Bleed Air Driven Cooler, has been in effect since 23 August 1968.

g. Reference item concerning "M79 Grenade Launchers," section II, page 36, paragraph e(8); nonconcur. The cocking lever is an authorized repair part, replaceable at field maintenance level. DSU's are authorized to stock the lever on an "as required" basis. Neither the cost of the lever nor the time required for replacement is prohibitive. The use of shims as a field expedient is acceptable but complete repair should be made as soon as parts and time are available. The unit will be informed of this and encouraged to submit an EIR. No further action required at higher headquarters.

h. Reference item concerning "Defoliant," section II, page 37, paragraph f(2). Nonconcur with recommendation that a contact kill chemical spray should be developed. Chemicals such as Soil Sterilants and Growth Retardants have been developed. Their use in RVN is restricted. MACV Directive 525-1 prescribes the policies, responsibilities and procedures governing the application of "Growth Retardants".

i. Reference concerning "Teletypewriter TT-4/TG, Reperforator-Transmitter TT-76/GGC, and Teletypewriter TT-98," section II, page 37, paragraph f(3); concur. This matter has been previously recognized and considered by USARV. It was submitted as an ENSURE requirement for Forward Area Tactical Teletype (FATT), and was subsequently disapproved by DA as being too costly. The development of an improved generation of teletype equipment is part of the normal equipment development process at DA. This recommendation should be brought to the attention of the USAECOM at Fort Monmouth, N.J.

j. Reference item concerning "PSYOPS Directed at VCI and Local Village Guerrillas," section II, page 38, paragraph g(1); concur. Selection of themes and media for the exploitation of a specific target audience is critical to the success of PSYOP. Local VC/VCI, because of their strong beliefs in Communist ideology and their position in the community and family, are not vulnerable to the same propaganda themes and media as are personnel in field units. Intelligence agencies and PSYOP personnel must continually attempt to identify VC/VCI and develop PSYOP media designed to exploit their specific vulnerabilities.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



C. D. WILSON

1LT, AG

Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
1st Inf Div
II FFV

GPOP-DT (15 May 69) 3d Ind (U)


SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 1st Inf Div for Period Ending
30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 13 AUG 69

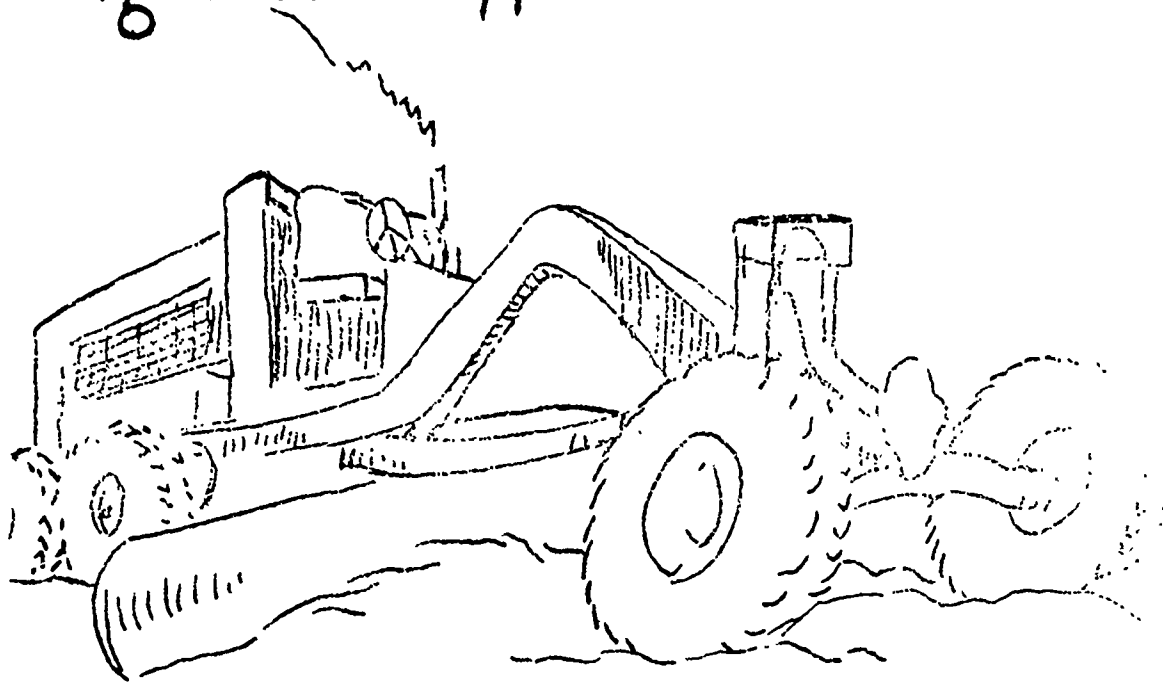
TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorse-
ments and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

Fundamentals of Engineer Support



1st Engineer Battalion
1st Infantry Division

Incl 14

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FUNDAMENTALS OF ENGINEER SUPPORT IN THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

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CHAPTER 1

GENERAL

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE: This booklet is a ready reference to inform unit commanders in the 1st Infantry Division of engineer support available and how it is allocated to support combat operations.
2. GENERAL: This booklet is organized into 10 chapters. Each chapter is devoted to one type of engineer support and discusses what each type of support will accomplish, what it consists of, how it may be obtained, and responsibilities of the requesting unit to assist the engineer element in its support role.
3. ORGANIZATION OF ENGINEER SUPPORT: There are elements of four engineer battalions deployed in the 1st Division TAOI. The 1st Engineer Battalion, which is organic to the division, has four line companies, a Headquarters Company, plus a float bridge company. The other battalions represented are the 168th and 31st Engineer Battalions (Combat) and the 34th Engineer Battalion (Construction). These battalions are part of the 20th Engineer Brigade. Other floating bridge, panel bridge, and construction equipment units as well as water point capability are available on request to support specific projects or operational requirements.
4. CONCEPT OF DEPLOYING ENGINEER SUPPORT: The engineer line companies of the 1st Engineer Battalion are normally placed in direct support of the brigades or in general support of the division. The companies are disposed as follows: A Co in direct support of 1st Brigade, B Co in direct support of 2nd Brigade located at Di An, C Co in direct support of 3rd Brigade located at Lai Khe, D Co in general support at Lai Khe, and E Co, the float bridge company, is in Di An. When the requirements for engineer support within the division exceed the capability of the divisional engineer battalion, additional non-divisional engineer support is requested by the Division Engineer from II FFV. Support is normally provided by the 168th or 34th Engineer Battalions.
5. ENGINEER EQUIPMENT AND SPECIALIZED TEAMS: The following are major items of engineer equipment and specialized teams available from the 1st Engineer Battalion to support the 1st Division.

EQUIPMENT:

5 ton dump trucks - 13 per line Co and 6 in Headquarters Company

Bulldozers - 2 per line Co

Rome Flows - 6 each (EQ Co)

20-ton Rough Terrain Cranes - 3 each (2 ea HQ Co - 1 E Co)

Graders - 2 per line Co and 6 each HQ Co

Scoop loaders - 3 per line Co and 2 HQ Co

Concrete Mixers - 1 per line Co

Tank Dozers - 4 each HQ Co

AVLBs - Class 60, 60-ft span

Launchers - 4 each E Co

Bridges - 6 each E Co

Bridging Capability - Class 12 and Class 60 rafts and bridges (E Co)

Water Supply Points - 1500 GPH - 5 each, 600 GPH - 4 each

SPECIALIZED TEAMS

Tunnel rats - 1 four-man team

Construction Survey Team - 1 team

Demolition Teams - 3 per line company

Mine Sweep Parties - 3 per line company

Landing Zone Teams - 3 per line company

Land Clearing Team (Rome Flows) - 1 each Bn HQ.

CHAPTER 2

ROAD OPENING AND MINEFIELD BREACHING

1. PURPOSE:

a. This chapter discusses road opening operations and minefield clearing. These activities become necessary when a unit or element plans to move using an established road or when a unit encounters a minefield in moving crosscountry.

b. Breaching a minefield will normally be accomplished by opening lanes to pass traffic and, in more deliberate manner, clearing the remainder of the field at a later time. Procedures for clearing lanes are similar to the procedure outlined below in clearing a route.

2. PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT: The mine sweep party.

a. Personnel: The mine sweep party consists of 1 NCOIC and 3 mine detecting teams of 2 men each.

b. Equipment and supplies:

- (1) 3 mine detectors w/spare batteries
- (2) 3 mine probes
- (3) 1 AN/PRC-25 radio.
- (4) 120 2-foot pieces engineer tape (40 per marker/prober)
- (5) 3 rolls white marking tape (1 per marker/prober)
- (6) 2 nonelectric demolition kits
- (7) 3 hand smoke grenades other than white or red
- (8) 3 white smoke rifle grenades
- (9) 1 red smoke hand grenade
- (10) 1 compass
- (11) Appropriate maps

3. DUTIES OF PERSONNEL:

a. OIC or NCOIC: An OIC will accompany the parties when two or more are dispatched to the same location from one company. The OIC and/or NCOIC will

supervise the party and maintain communications with higher headquarters and direct contact with the security element.

b. Mine detector operators 1, 2, and 3: Maintain echelon with 25 meters separation between operators (See enclosed sketch). Sweep lane and call marker/prober forward to mark suspected mines. Carefully observe area for booby traps. Once a suspected mine is marked, move forward in lane.

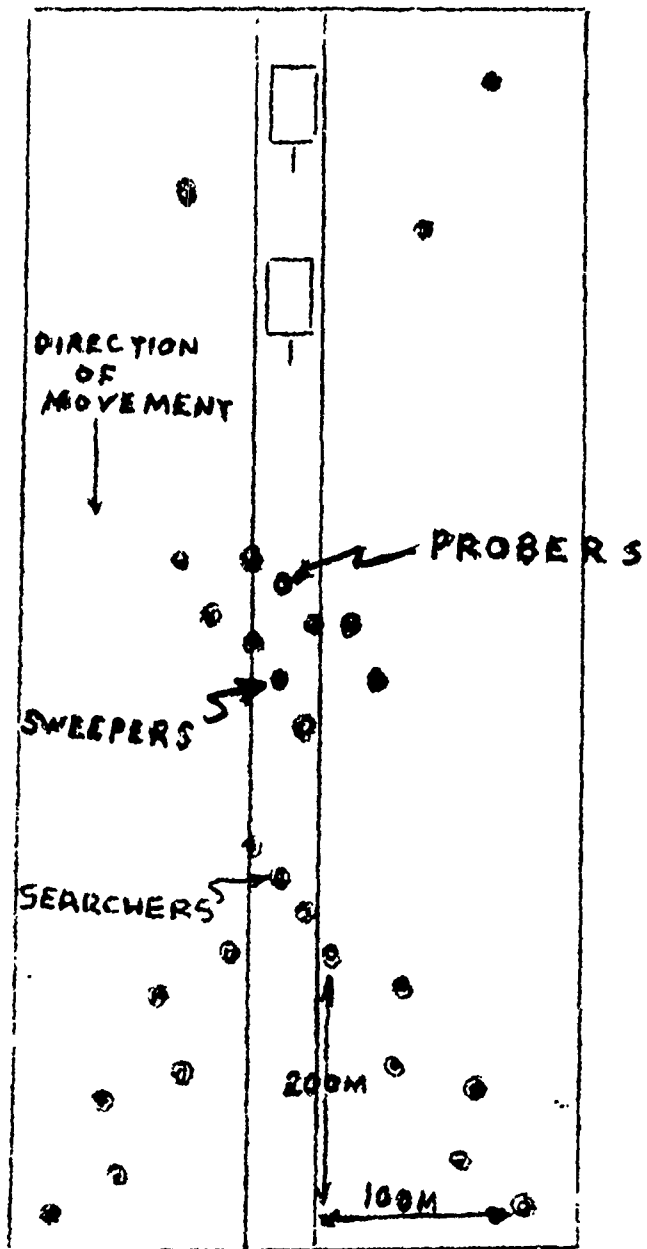
c. Markers/Probers: Remain 10 meters from detector operators, move forward only to mark suspected mines with a foot-long tape strip. Begin probing when all personnel are at least 10 meters away. If mine is located, notify NCOIC and prepare to destroy in place or anchor marking tape and move on. If no metal is found, have operator recheck area. Destroy a suspected mine by using one pound of demolition each. Clear area for 100 meters and inform security before detonating charge. Mines will not be disarmed or removed without specific authorization from CO, 1st Engineer Battalion.

4. PLANNING FACTOR: The mine sweep party can clear about 1-2 KM per hour. The time to open a route can be reduced by putting additional sweep parties along the route. The 1st Engineer Battalion is organized and equipped to provide 3 mine sweep parties from each company. A total of 12 mine sweep parties are on standby with 9 of these based in Lai Khe and 3 based in Di An. Additional mine sweep parties can be obtained from the supporting engineer units when these 1st Engineer Battalion parties are out of position or already committed.

5. HOW SUPPORT IS ACQUIRED: A unit forced to move over an unsecured route may obtain support from the brigade direct support engineer company and additional support from the 1st Engineer Battalion by requesting it through the division G3.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SUPPORTED UNIT: The tactical unit designated by division has responsibility for the following:

- a. Conduct of the road opening.
- b. Coordinating subordinate tactical elements.
- c. Preparation of a plan for mine sweeping of roads.
- d. Provision for emergency repair of roads.
- e. Security along route.
- f. Arranging for insertion of engineer mine sweep parties at NDP/RON positions on day prior to the road opening and transportation for their return to base camp.



CHAPTER 3

LANDING ZONE CONSTRUCTION

1. PURPOSE: The Landing Zone Team supports tactical operations by cutting a landing zone in about 6 to 8 hours depending upon the size of the trees and amount of vegetation. The LZ will consist of approach and landing areas to support up to 5 UH-1s simultaneously. The LZ Team can be employed by air landing to improve an existing LZ or by ladder descent from a CH-47 to

construct an LZ from virgin jungle. Landing Zone Teams are normally employed to develop an expedient landing zone. In addition, the team may be used to enlarge and expand the NDP position or a unit.

a. CH-47 delivered teams. (Standard Team)

(1) Generally used in heavy jungle, or when no UH-1 LZs are available. The team is delivered in one or two lifts: The first lift consists of personnel (20-25) and a sling load, kit #1, which is picked up by the hook or winch and lowered before personnel exit from the aircraft on the ground or by ladder. If conditions require, as many #2 kits as necessary are brought in. All kits must be equipped with a 100' cable, $\frac{1}{2}$ " or larger. Composition and features of kits are covered in Inclosure #2.

(2) Pilots must be thoroughly briefed on the following:

- (a) Concept of operation.
- (b) Pickup of kits.
- (c) Location of LZ.
- (d) Frequency, call sign of ground unit.
- (e) Frequency, call sign of LZ Team, hookup team.

(3) A hookup team, equipped with goggles and radio, must be used.

(4) Procedure:

- (a) Personnel load.
- (b) CH-47 picks up kit #1 (if winch is used, detach 100' cable).
- (c) Fly to LZ site.
- (d) Pilot calls ground unit for marking of LZ and clearance to

hover.

- (e) CH-47 lowers kit #1 to ground.
- (f) Troops exit or descend ladder, team leader first.
- (g) Team leader evaluates LZ, tells pilot to pickup kit #2, if required.
- (h) Pilot calls back to hook up team.
- (i) Kits #2 are delivered by cable.
- (j) Steps g thru i are best coordinated by an airborne commander in a C&C helicopter.

b. UH-1 delivered teams (Special Teams) - The tactical commander can have a standard team or a special purpose team delivered by UH-1 sorties if the landing area is sufficient and CH-47 aircraft are unavailable. Some of the planning factors involved are as follows:

- (1) Typical UH-1 load for personnel is 5 men with personnel gear, tools, chain saws, and mixed gasoline.
- (2) Typical UH-1 load for supply consists of 1000-1200 pounds of demolition of the type required by terrain and vegetation.
- (3) A standard team insertion by UH-1 would require eight (8) sorties. The first three would be personnel, the fourth and fifth sorties supply, and the sixth through eighth sorties carry the remainder of the personnel.
- (4) If any demolition resupply is needed, it will be airlifted by either UH-1 or CH-47. By the time resupply would normally be required, the LZ should be large enough to accept a CH-47.

2. HOW SUPPORT IS ACQUIRED: LZ Teams are on 30 minute standby in Lai Khe and Di An. They are controlled by G3, 1st Infantry Division. Advising the direct support company of the requirement will start the 30 minute preparation time a little earlier.

3. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SUPPORTED UNIT: The requesting unit must provide aircraft to lift the team of teams and the resupply kits is necessary. Security during the cutting operation is the responsibility of the tactical unit requesting the LZ. Finally, the requesting unit must provide aircraft to return the unit to their home base.

Inclosure 1 (Kit Composition) LZ Construction

1. GENERAL: This outline is a guide only. Allowance must be made for different make of chain saws (gas-oil mixture, type of chain, spark plug, starter assembly, etc), type of demolition (Tetrytol haversacks require C4 booster), etc.

2. Chain saw repair kit (packed in combat pack).

3 ea 9/16 box end wrenches

3 ea pliers

3 ea 12" adjusting wrench

3 ea flat files

3 ea screw drivers

3 ea files (chain saw), filing guides

*3 ea chain blades

*2 ea spark plugs

*2 ea starter assembly springs

*2 chain adjusting screws

*For each type saw

3. LZ Kit #1 (2000# Limit - initial kit)

1600# demolition (type determined by reconnaissance)

15 gallons mixed gasoline

10 gallons potable water

5 gallons OE oil

3 ea brush hooks

5 ea axes

4 ea picks

2 ea 2-man crosscut saws

- 4 ea shovels
- 1 case detonation cord
- 1 case time fuse
- 1 small reel firing wire
- 1 ea blasting machine
- 1 ea galvanometer
- 2 e. hammers
- 1 sack nails, engineer tape
- 6 ea files
- 4. LZ Kit #2 (6000# Limit - Demolition resupply)
5200# demolition (type determined by reconnaissance)
- 2 cases detonation cord
- 1 roll firing wire
- 15 gallons mixed gasoline
- 15 gallons potable water
- 5 gallons OE oil
- 1 can time fuse
- 2 cases M60 ammunition
- 1 case M79 ammunition
- 5. The following material is required for each kit:
 - a. 100' cable, $\frac{1}{2}$ " or $\frac{5}{8}$ " diameter (looped each end)
 - b. 6 cable clamps
 - c. 2 ea clevis, assembly FSN 1670-0905354
 - d. 2 ea sling, endless, nylon webbing, 10,000# cap, 10" diameter
FSN 3940-675-5001

- e. 1 ea sling, Cargo, ea leg adjustable FSN 1670-242-9169
- f. Net, Cargo, Rope, 10,000# capacity

Inclosure 2 (LZ Specifications)

1. GENERAL: LZs generally can be classified in two categories: Pioneer and Hasty. Pioneer LZs meet minimum standards and should be improved to Hasty as soon as possible.

2. SPECIFICATIONS:

	<u>UH1D</u>	<u>CH-47</u>
LZ width Pioneer	100'	150'
Hasty	150'	200'
Pad Size	12'x40'	20'x40'
Maximum height of pad obstructions	6"	10"
Maximum height of approach	3'	3'
Distance between pads	100'	150'
Glide path Pioneer	1:5	1:5
Hasty	1:10	1:10

Inclosure 3 (Construction Technique)

1. GENERAL: LZ construction is characterized by extremely hard work for a few hours. Positive leadership and good training required to minimize wasted effort.

2. SEQUENCE OF CONSTRUCTION:

a. Immediately after landing, the OIC designates the azimuth of the LZ, decides if additional demolitions are needed, and coordinates with the tactical commander for any resupply needed.

b. Crews are broken down to clear the central zone (LZ itself) and the approach zones.

c. An aid point and chain saw repair point are established in a central location.

d. Clearing of the central zone is done by clearing the large trees first, then the smaller trees and brush. Maximum height for vegetation in the central zone is 3'. The actual helicopter pad areas must be cleared to a height of 6" and be relatively smooth.

e. Clearing of the approach zones is accomplished by first cutting the tall trees for the entire area of the zone. The glide path must be cleared as soon as possible to allow aircraft access.

f. As much as possible, use demolitions to fall the larger trees in order to save time and allow the clearing of a larger area.

3. RULES OF THUMB:

a. Use Bangalore Torpedoes on bamboo and thick brush. Set the charges in parallel lines 10 feet apart to get maximum clearing.

b. Use shaped charges on ant hills.

c. Use large ring mains, large charges, and fire as seldom as possible.

d. Always dual prime, with electric caps if possible.

e. Always coordinate closely with the security unit before blasting. Double check the blast area for personnel before detonating the charges.

f. Coordinate with supported unit for extraction.

g. Submit progress reports to the supported unit and to 1st Engineer Battalion if possible.

CHAPTER 4

TUNNEL SEARCH AND DESTRUCTION

1. PURPOSE: The VC have used their skills and the soft sandy soil to good advantage to move their facilities underground. To eliminate and destroy the enemy, these facilities must be explored, neutralized, and time permitting, destroyed. Engineer support is available to units operating in the 1st Division TAOR. This support consists of Tunnel Rat Teams. Like other forms of engineer support, the direct support companies respond directly to brigade requirements and the Tunnel Rats are tasked by the division G3.

2. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS:

a. The demolition team is a part of the engineer company. Each platoon has 6 demolition specialists. The remainder of the platoon assists by positioning explosives and preparing charges. In a 4 hour period, this demolition team can normally destroy a VC base camp of 20 bunkers.

b. Tunnel Rats: A Tunnel Rat Team consists of 4 men including a team leader. They are carefully selected soldiers, trained and equipped to go into holes and tunnels where they explore, map, confiscate, and destroy enemy material.

3. AVAILABILITY AND DISPOSITION: The Tunnel Rats are on 30 minute call. A unit having need of this support should initiate a request through higher headquarters to G3. The demolition team is also available in each brigade area from the direct support company and additional support can be allocated if necessary.

4. REQUIREMENTS: The requesting unit must provide transportation support for the Tunnel Rats and/or demolition team. In the field these units must be secured by a tactical unit. Finally, when the mission is complete, transportation is required to return these teams to their base camp.

5. DO'S AND DON'TS

a. If you come across what appears to be a tunnel complex, notify your next higher command using your chain of command. The Tunnel Rats will be notified and flown to your location by helicopter.

b. When approaching an entrance to a tunnel or bunker, stay out of the field of fire from that hole. Too many people have been killed by haphazard movement around a hole.

c. Do not use smoke grenades to try to find out where the tunnel entrances and exits are located. This only hinders the Tunnel Rats when they investigate the tunnels.

d. If pulling security for the Tunnel Rats while they are in a hole, be especially alert. If a VC or an NVA is in the tunnel, he may try to exit through your entrance/exit.

CHAPTER 5

RIVER SEARCH

1. PURPOSE: To control rivers and tidal areas, thereby eliminating their use by VC and NVA units as resupply and infiltration routes.
2. COMPOSITION: E Co, 1st Engineer Battalion, is the division's organic bridge company. In addition to 4 sets of MAT6 float bridge (540 feet), the company has tools and equipment related to its bridge mission. For example, the Light Tactical Raft and outboard motors, and the bridge erection boats can be used to maneuver a patrol through a tidal stream area. The float bridge can be assembled into rafts to carry tanks, trucks, or artillery.
3. AVAILABILITY AND DISPOSITION: River search equipment is available for division support missions. The bridge company has 8 Light Tactical Raft half pontons. Outfitted with outboard motors, these have proven best suited to river search operations in the Nipa palm area east of Saigon. In more rapidly moving streams and rivers where there is always at least 40 inches of water, the bridge erection boats have been used. While these are very powerful boats, they are slow and have limited troop space. Never the less, they can be used to good advantage in the Dong Nai and other large rivers. Each of these boat assemblies should be armed with automatic weapons. These automatic weapons have provided fire superiority over the enemy forces when engaged. All this equipment is in Di An but it can be moved quickly by truck or aircraft to a field location.
4. REQUIREMENTS: Requesting units must be prepared to secure and provide transportation for resupply to these search units. The boats will be complete with trained operators and mechanics to perform limited repair. In searching river banks, it is desirable to have overhead cover and artillery fire on call. If engaged, the boats will require additional fire support to eliminate the enemy in his prepared position near the stream banks as the boats have limited maneuverability. River searches have proven highly successful in denying VC and NVA use of abandoned waterways for movement.

CHAPTER 6

ENGINEER ROUTE RECONNAISSANCE INTELLIGENCE

1. PURPOSE: To provide the commander with timely and continuing intelligence concerning geographic features of the terrain.
2. CAPABILITIES: The 1st Engineer Battalion collects and processes information on:
 - a. Existing routes and their physical characteristics
 - b. Bridges
 - c. Ford and ferry sites
 - d. Tunnels, underpasses, and other traffic obstructions
 - e. Artificial obstructions such as roadblocks, craters, blown culverts or bridges, and mined areas
 - f. Location of engineer materials

This unit has the personnel and equipment required to perform this mission with the exception of ground security forces for a ground recon and aircraft for an aerial recon.
3. REQUEST FOR SUPPORT: All requests for support should be referred to S3, 1st Engineer Battalion.
4. SUPPORT UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES: For special information requests, the supported unit will provide security if a ground reconnaissance is necessary and aircraft is an aerial reconnaissance is necessary.
5. REPORTING OF MINES AND MINE INCIDENTS: A special interest subject to this headquarters is the reporting of mines and mine incidents. Each mine incident should be reported to G2/G3 giving all information possible for study and evaluation to find a way to counteract these mines. This information should include as a minimum the following:
 - a. Location (six digit coordinates)
 - b. Date and time found
 - c. Method of detection
 - d. Origin of manufacture
 - e. Type firing device

- f. Last friendly passage
 - g. Extent of damage
 - h. Total casualties
 - i. When possible, a diagram showing terrain features, to include a sketch of device, wires, depth buried, width and surface of road
 - j. Civilians in area
 - k. Warning indicators - VERY IMPORTANT
1. 1st Engineer Battalion maintains a mine density chart of all mines found in the TAOI, available to all interested users.
6. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES: Intelligence is a two-way operation, and an effective intelligence program relies heavily upon timely input from subordinate units. In this regard, it is the responsibility of all personnel to report information on all items listed in paragraph 5 above.

CHAPTER 7

DEFENSIVE POSITIONS AND PERSONNEL BUNKERS

1. PURPOSE: To provide guidance to supported units requesting materials, plans, technical assistance for construction of bunkers and defensive positions.
2. CAPABILITIES: The 1st Engineer Battalion has on hand standard designs for a wide variety of facilities ranging from two-man perimeter positions to brigade headquarters sized TOCs. If a standard design for the requested facility is not on hand, the battalion has the capability to prepare specifications for special facilities.
3. REQUESTING SUPPORT:
 - a. Units having a need for protective structures at base camps should submit their requirements on a DA Form 2496 through Base Development channels to the Installation Engineer for siting approval. Upon approval, the request is forwarded through the Div Arty S-4 (for units at Lai Khe) or DISCOM (for units at Di An) to the 1st S&T Battalion which issues the materials based on standard bill of materials. Protective structures should normally be constructed by the using unit with technical assistance from supporting engineer units.
 - b. Protective structures at NDPs, FSBs, etc, are requested through operations (S3/G3) channels. Once approved, materials are obtained by the constructing unit (normally requesting unit) from the 1st S&T Battalion through supply (S4/G4) channels.

CHAPTER 8

WATER SUPPLY

1. PURPOSE: To acquaint the tactical units of the 1st Infantry Division with the capabilities of the 1st Engineer Battalion to provide water purification in field locations and how to request this service.
2. CAPABILITIES: The 1st Engineer Battalion is authorized five truck-mounted water purification units with a unit capacity of 1500 gallons of potable water per hour. These units are self-contained in a 2½ ton truck with cargo trailer. The battalion is also authorized and has available four smaller 600 gallon per hour purification units.
3. REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT: All units with a requirement for on-site water purification can obtain this support by requesting through the S3, 1st Engineer Battalion.
4. RESPONSIBILITIES: The units receiving this support are required to provide quarters, rations, and POL to the water supply section. The supported unit will also provide work site security and mine sweeping and clearing of the work site every day the water point is operational.

CHAPTER 9

REORGANIZATION OF ENGINEERS AS INFANTRY

1. SECONDARY MISSION: The secondary mission of the 1st Engineer Battalion is to reorganize and fight as an infantry battalion.

2. ORGANIZATION: When reorganized to fight as infantry, the engineer battalion will provide the following forces:

a. Each squad will be organized as a 10-man squad.

b. Each platoon will have 3 rifle squads plus a four-man command group for a total of 34 men.

c. Each company will consist of three rifle platoons and a company headquarters. The size of the company headquarters will vary depending on type of mission assigned and relationship to the battalion headquarters.

d. The battalion reorganized will consist of the battalion forward headquarters and four line companies.

e. Battalion forward will consist of the command group, the complete S2 and S3 sections, representatives of the S1 and S4 sections plus the necessary support sections of Headquarters Company to insure full operation.

f. Battalion rear will consist of the remainder of Headquarters Company, the bulk of the S1 and S4 sections plus all stored tools and vehicles of the four line companies. Also the rear detachment of the line companies and the bridge company will be co-located with battalion rear as to provide local security and resupply capability. Senior officer present will be in command of the battalion rear.

3. The commitment of engineers as infantry requires time to store the tools and special equipment, to relocate the personnel to provide the essential non-combat activities, and to establish the logistic support for the committed unit. In addition to the above, artillery liaison personnel, additional indirect fire weapons, and communication equipment should be provided to bring the unit to full effectiveness.

4. Divisional engineer units may be reorganized to fight as any type of infantry unit. Therefore, the divisional engineer unit has incorporated in its field SOP, plans to insure the proper transformation with a minimum elapsed time.

CHAPTER 10

AIRMOBILE DOZER AND TOWERS

1. PURPOSE: To provide guidance to supported units requesting airmobile tower construction and movement and deployment of the airmobile dozer.

2. CAPABILITIES:

a. The 1st Engineer Battalion has the capability for construction, and rigging for air movement of 20' wooden towers. The 1st Engineer Battalion will provide a 4-man team to prepare a new site location for these airmobile towers.

b. The 1st Engineer Battalion has one organic airmobile dozer available for deployment. Other airmobile dozers can be requested through II FFV.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES:

a. Airmobile towers:

(1) Request towers thru division G3.

(2) Request rigging team for movement of tower thru G3.

(3) Requesting unit request CH-47 lift for airmobile tower from ACC (H-hour).

(4) Provide UH-1 transportation for materials and four man team at H-4 to the new site location to prepare location to receive tower.

(5) Provide transportation back from site location to 1st Engineer Battalion for 4-man team after tower is emplaced.

(6) Provide security for 4-man team while at site location.

(7) Provide 1st Engineer Battalion with the call sign of the aircraft to make lift, and the time of lift.

b. Airmobile Dozer:

(1) Request for dozer submitted thru G3.

(2) Inform 1st Engineer Battalion of time and place of pickup.

(3) Provide 1st Engineer Battalion with coordinates of location where dozer will work.

(4) Provide security for dozer and operator.

- (5) Request CH-54 lift to transport dozer to field location.
- (6) Provide transportation for operator to field location.
- (7) At completion of mission, provide lift for operator and dozer back to the 1st Engineer Battalion.
- (8) Provide shelter and meals for operator.
- (9) Provide POL support for dozer (21 gallons diesel/8 hour operation).
- (10) As the need requires, notify 1st Engineer Battalion of maintenance required and provide transportation for maintenance contact team and repair parts.

4. RESPONSIBILITY OF 1ST ENGINEER BATTALION:

a. Airmobile Tower:

- (1) Construct and transport all new towers to pickup point.
- (2) Rig all towers for airlift.
- (3) Provide 4-man team to prepare site and install towers.

b. Airmobile Dozer:

- (1) Provide dozer and operator.
- (2) Rig dozer for air movement.
- (3) Provide maintenance capability.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 96345

AWDB-TD

1 April 1969

SUBJECT: Mechanized/Cavalry Night Defensive Positions and Fire Support
Patrol Bases

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. With the approach of the rainy season, units must initiate planning to preclude turning mechanized cavalry NDP and FSPB positions into seas of mud by movement of tracked vehicles.

2. The two most important factors in preventing this problem are careful site selection and thoughtful planning of traffic flow.

a. Sites should be selected, whenever possible, to take maximum advantage of high ground and natural drainage. Such damage can be supplemented by ditches dug by hand or bulldozer.

b. The NDP/FSPB should be designed so that all traffic will move on an access road running inside the wire but outside the night positions of the tracks. The tracks can then be backed into their night positions in such a manner that when the ramp is lowered the necessity for troops to walk through mud is eliminated.

c. Resupply vehicles moving from the helipad to artillery positions, mess halls and maintenance areas should also stay on the access road. The location of activities inside the NDP/FSPB requiring resupply should be carefully planned to avoid internal vehicular movement. Whenever possible, wheel vehicles should be used to move supplies.

d. Command tracks and other vehicles which must be parked near the center of the NDP should move into position on a straight line and remain stationary. Departure routes should be planned to avoid bisecting the NDP.

e. The imaginative preparation of positions currently in use, complemented with Penepine, laterite, and other materials to prepare walkways and access roads, will help forestall the buildup of mud when the monsoon season starts.

Incl 15

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AVDB-TD

1 April 1969

SUBJECT: Mechanized/Cavalry Night Defensive Positions and Fire Support
Patrol Bases

3. Extensions to positions providing access roads for helipads should be part of the initial planning. The inclosed sketch illustrates a type NDP/FSPB which may be used as a guide in the development of future mechanized Cavalry NDP and FSPB.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
as

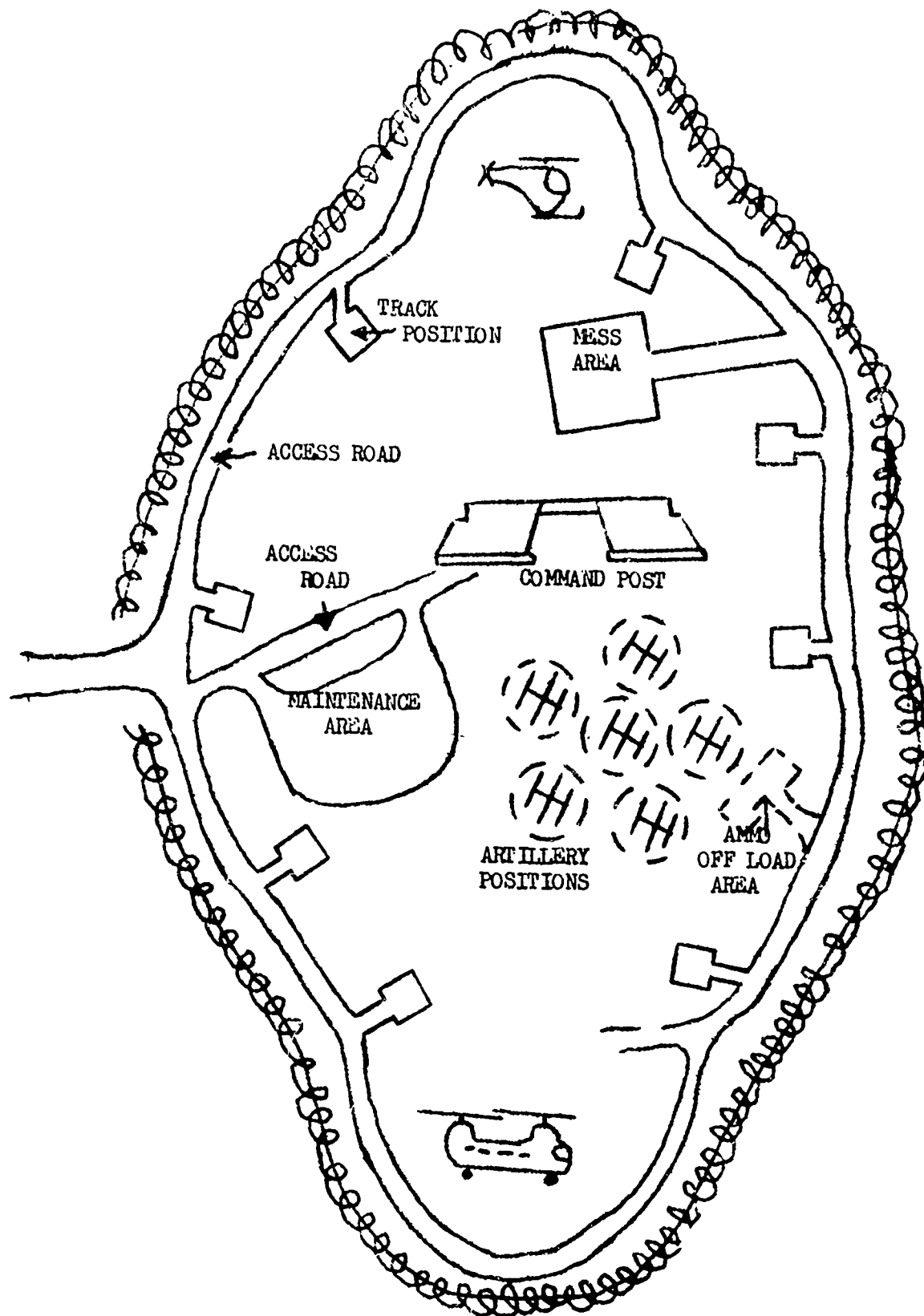
/s/LESTER E. SHOTWELL
/t/LESTER E. SHOTWELL
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WILLIAM W. CAMPION
Major, Infantry



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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS INFANTRY DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96345

AVDB-I

24 April 1969

SUBJECT: Lessons Learned, VCI Operations (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION:

1. (C) PURPOSE: This Intelligence Lessons Learned is intended to provide intelligence and operational tips to subordinate units in an effort to improve the effectiveness of cordon and search operations in the attack against the Viet Cong Infrastructure (VCI).

2. (C) GENERAL:

a. The eventual objective in any cordon and search operation is the pacification of the hamlet, village or area. Pacification depends in large measure upon the identification and neutralization of the VCI, as well as elimination of enemy military forces.

b. Planning for a cordon and search operation is similar to any other combat operation; however, there are certain intelligence aspects that require special consideration during the planning and execution phases of a cordon and search operation directed against the VCI. The following items have been extracted from after-action reports and lessons learned for consideration when subordinate units are given the mission of conducting a cordon and search operation.

3. (C) DETAILED LESSONS: During the planning phase, consideration must be given to exploiting every available source of intelligence, compiling the intelligence in useful form and having it available, on site, during the operation. In addition to requesting information from US and ARVN S2s and G2s, the following GVN agencies can provide information on cordon and search targets:

a. Provincial and District Intelligence and Operations Coordinating Centers include many agencies that compile intelligence specifically aimed at elimination of the VCI. Included in the PIOCOS and DIOCOS and what assistance each can render are:

(1) Province and District S2s and advisors: General information concerning VC activity in the target area.

(2) Phoenix Coordinator: Primary point of contact for information on VCI in the target area.

(3) National Police: Blacklists and collated studies concerning VCI. Point of contact for National Police Field Force (NPFF), who will conduct the search portion of the operation, and Police Special Branch (PSB), for additional information on the VCI.

(4) Census Grievance: Census overlays and hamlet books, which give house numbers and indicate where VCI or VC sympathizers probably live.

b. Provincial Chieu Hoi Centers can select and furnish Hoi Chanhhs who are former VC from the target area to identify VC and VC suspects during the operation. When using Hoi Chanhhs or other informants from the local population to point out VC (suspects), arrangements should

SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED
NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN 72
NATIONALS

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DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
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be made to allow them to observe without being seen by the persons being screened. Police or similar protection should also be provided. One of the best ways is to have the population move past the concealed identifier in single file for an ID card check or similar administrative process.

c. Mobile interrogation teams should be planned for and utilized to gain information from friendly civilians. The technique used should be one of interview, rather than interrogation, and superfluous questions should be planned to pad shorter interviews so that all are of about the same length. The interrogation teams should be composed of US and Vietnamese counterintelligence personnel; the number of teams should be tailored to population figures.

d. Aerial and ground reconnaissance of the target area should be coordinated to preclude repeated reconnaissance of the area and possibly disclosure of friendly interest in the area.

e. The wide use of aliases by the VC, incomplete blacklists and problems involved in attempting to identify enemy personnel from a blacklist without discreditable markings have often reduced the effectiveness of an otherwise well-planned operation. Information must be collected from all available sources, collated, and placed in a format useable by both GVN and US elements.

f. Dossiers on the key VC functionaries (about 20 in number, on the average) in the district containing the target area should be compiled and the information made accessible to assist in screening and interviewing inhabitants of the target area.

g. During the planning stages, a "blueprint" or line and block chart of the VCI organization in the target area should be constructed for the People's Revolutionary Party Executive Committee, the Local Liberation Committee, National Liberation Front, and the Military Affairs Committee. The names of known VCI should be added to the chart. During screening and interrogation of the population in the target area, the blueprints can be used to identify suspects, names can be added to appropriate positions on the chart, and an accurate blacklist can be compiled.

h. Joint committees consisting of intelligence and operations personnel from US, ARVN and GVN agencies participating in the operation should be established during the planning stages in order to decide priorities of interest, assist in the collection of intelligence and the preparation of plans for the operation, and insuring that all coordination is effected.

i. During the operation, representatives from the combined planning committee should be moved to the area of operations to establish a combined command post in a central location. The same location can serve as a central collection point for all documents and photographs and as the assembly area for a centrally-controlled reaction force for response to intelligence collected during the operation.

j. Immediate screening and interrogation can take place during the search of the target area or at a central collection point. Interrogations in the target area should be done either by the NPFF conducting the search or by PSB personnel accompanying the NPFF. A "type" holdings and interrogation center is shown at inclosure 1.

k. The NPFF search teams should be discreetly supervised to insure that every house is searched thoroughly and systematically and that every possible concealment device is checked. US personnel, including at least nine detector teams, should accompany NPFF teams throughout the search operation. One means of supervising the NPFF is to include in the nine detector teams a few selected US supervisory personnel.

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Rough sketches and interior and exterior dimensions of dwellings and other buildings should be compiled as a check for any future search against alterations indicating the construction of possible concealment devices.

1. Conditions permitting, house-to-house distribution of leaflets and other psy-ops materials can be used as a cover for interviews with civilian population or as a method of making contact with informants or other persons known to be friendly in order to elicit information on the VCI.

4. (C) COMPROMISE:

A. Disclosure of operational plans for cordon and searches must be kept to the absolute minimum. Indiscriminate dissemination of operational data only increases the likelihood of compromise of the operation and loss of the element of surprise, the key principle in a cordon and search operation. Some disclosure necessarily occurs when liaison is made with GVN agencies for purposes of gaining intelligence prior to the operation, but care must be taken to limit the extent and effect of the disclosure.

B. The following are possible methods for avoiding compromise of a planned operation:

a. Plan over an extended period of time to build the intelligence picture and to determine the "ripeness" of the target.

b. Plan several targets simultaneously so that no clear simple target emerges in discussions with GVN agencies.

c. Keep the number of individuals contacted in building the intelligence to the minimum necessary. PIOC and DIOC personnel, as well as US advisors and Province/District Chiefs, are well aware of the security problem and will cooperate in your efforts.

d. Develop a cover plan to hit on target while you actually aim at another. This method can be carried to great lengths or kept very simple.

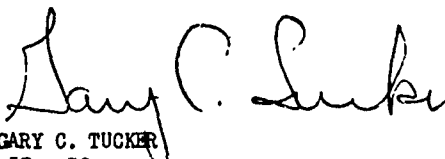
e. After the intelligence picture is developed, execute the cordon or seal part of the operation with US troops only, perhaps in hot pursuit of a night contact or an intelligence report, and request the search forces only after the seal is complete. Cooperation by GVN agencies in this method depends completely on the support previously established between US commanders and District officials.

5. (U) SUMMARY: This list of tips is not exhaustive, and addressees will certainly have operational and planning methods derived from their own lessons learned. Comments and recommendations on VCI operations are elicited from all addressees, and should be sent to the ACofS, G2, 1st Infantry Division, ATTN: G2 CI.

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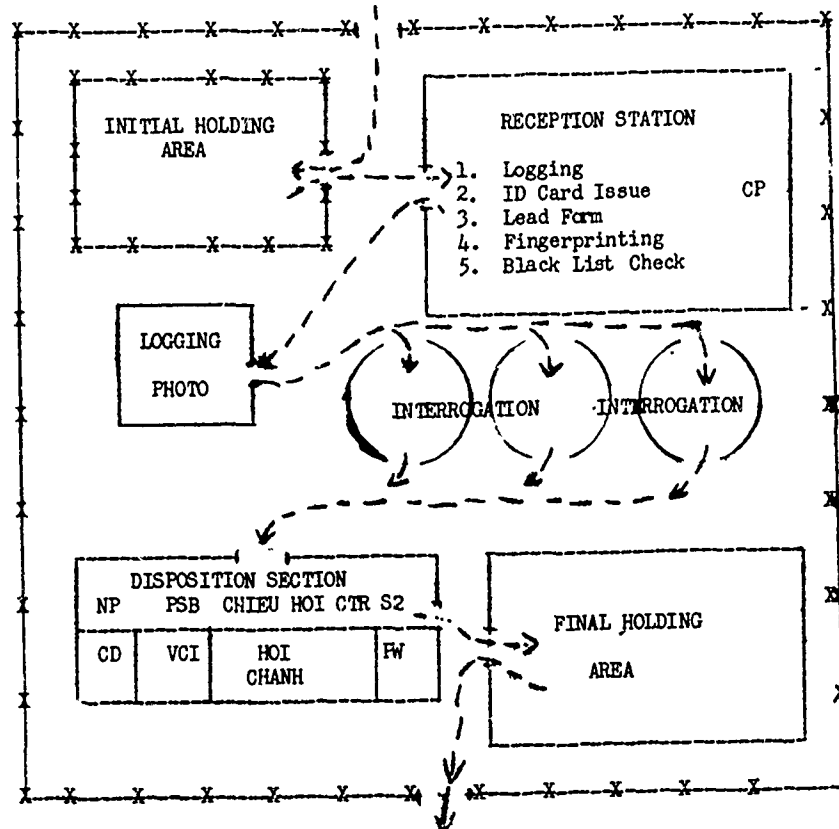

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